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ABSTRACT

Public librarians met at a workshop in Albury, Australia on September 19 and 20, 1970 to discuss areas in which they tend to undervalue their responsibility to the community. The following papers were presented, and appear in this volume: (1) Extension activities for children, (2) Youth, (3) The film society and the public library, (4) The provision of books in foreign languages, (5) Libraries and continuing learning, and (6) Extension activities and the council. (SJ)

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UNDERVALUED AREAS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP

Edited for

VICTORIAN DIVISION

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

by

Neville Houghton

LI 003 801

FOREWORD

Public librarians have tended to undervalue their responsibility to the community and it was decided to examine some of these areas at a Workshop held in Albury on 19th & 20th September, 1970.

The purpose of these Workshops has been to provoke discussion on an informal basis and to give members of the Division an opportunity to air their views on matters of common interest.

Speakers' conviction about the value of their areas lead to a greater understanding of the need to develop the library into the common ground on which all citizens should be able to meet - the centre of communication within the community.

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UNDERVALUED AREAS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP:
EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

by

Margaret Dunkle

Children's Librarian
Moorabbin

I would like to suggest that rather than extension activities, the subject of children's library services in their entirety might have more truly reflected the undervalued area in public librarianship that could be discussed, since this field as a whole tends still to be considered one of minor importance by the library profession at large. Children's librarians have so little status amongst their colleagues that there are, to my knowledge, no male librarians working or training in this field; compare this with primary libraries, where a large proportion of the ablest and most enthusiastic young librarians are men. The children's library itself is still often squashed into a corner, or put upstairs out of the way; and the bookstock all too often remains tired, tatty, and unimaginative, the staff so occupied with the charging system they have little time for the borrowers. Under these conditions, there is really little point in contemplating promotional activities. The child will use these libraries when driven to them by necessity, but one cannot really expect him to enjoy them.

The children's library is important primarily because children are important. The child is an individual in his own right, characterized by an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and curiosity. Part of the satisfaction that comes from work with children results from the knowledge that the child has within him an immeasurable potential for growth, and that the directions this growth will take depend very largely upon the experiences - good and bad, repressive and creative - that occur during his formative years. Every children's librarian knows the frustration of watching the child's questing intelligence being systematically prodded and pushed into the mould of acceptance and conformity that constitutes so much of our cultural pattern. He also knows that books can become, for the fortunate child, a road to intellectual freedom. It is his privilege as a librarian to help the child discover for himself the satisfaction that books can bring.

More prosaically, activities which result in a more appreciative use of the children's area are important to the entire library because the child eventually becomes the adult who does not use the library. If his memory of the junior section is a happy one, if he learned to consult books for his own satisfaction and not merely in order to fulfil school requirements, he is far more likely to become an adult library user. It is also a fact that many adult borrowers have children of their own. If the library visit is a happily shared family experience its value is increased for both the children and parents. In our library, as in many others, Friday night is family night, and it is great fun to watch the children, often in slippers and pyjamas, queueing up with a week's reading to be added to the family carton.

If the junior library is to offer a stimulating and enjoyable experience for the children of the community, it should be bright, informal and attractive, with as many books as possible displayed face outward. There should be no hidden subjects, and the adult stock should be easily accessible to reinforce the junior collection. Borrowers should be able to select whatever they are currently

interested in without subject or numerical limitations. The collection must contain fresh copies of the standard best books and children's classics - but, it should also offer a wide choice of easier and more superficially exciting titles for the children who are not expert readers, many of whom will never attain the intellectual ability to appreciate great literature, either at a junior or adult level.

It is the fond hope of every librarian that the child will experience the enjoyment of reading the books that constitute the best in children's literature. But for a great number of children it must first be demonstrated that reading anything can be enjoyable, and this is not done by telling the slow sixth grader that he will enjoy, say, The Hobbit; he won't, and you will merely have added more proof to his experience that books are a bore. Unless the library contains the less demanding books as well - for example stories by E.W. Hildick or Willard Price - you are providing a select collection that will be used only by a select minority of the children in the community.

The collection itself constitutes only half the service that the library should offer the child. The other half is the trained and sensitive reader's adviser, whom Sara Fenwick found too often non-existent. In her Report on School and children's libraries in Australia she states that "The guidance this visitor missed in a large number of libraries (was) the continuous presence of the librarian on the floor, talking casually with children accustomed to his being available, interested and ready with another book... There is a quality of awareness of the right time and the right approach that was very little discussed in professional dialogues, but which is the essence of effective work with children" (p.13-14). I suggest that this individual contact is by far the most important activity that takes place within the library, and its lack is due to staff rosters which do not allow time for this service, and staff personnel with insufficient knowledge of their books.

Library-oriented group activities with children fall naturally into two kinds: those designed to enrich the reading experience of children who are already aware of and enjoying books; and those intended to tempt non-readers into sampling the library's collection. For the genuine reader, group activities can introduce a wider and more discriminating acquaintance with books, plus the added pleasure of communication with other enthusiasts. For the factual-minded, such activities as stamp- or coin-collectors' clubs, puppets or doll manufacture fall into this category. If neither the local schools nor community youth organizations sponsor such groups, they could become a valid extension activity of the public library, with the added bonus of demonstrating the usefulness of the library collection. Such clubs would need a room in which to meet, or at least an isolated corner where members could talk and work without being interrupted or disturbing others. They would need the librarian to help them find the books wanted, and very little else; adult advisors if necessary could be interested persons in the community. Such clubs are best started from the expressed interests of the children themselves. If well publicized they may also open the way for the indifferent borrower to discover that books can be a fun thing rather than a grim necessity.

Activities planned to enlarge the child's awareness of good literature will entail more staff time but will offer the most creative opportunities. Some successful experiments include:

Literary quizzes, in which favourite storybook characters or well-known situations are identified. These could be visual rather than verbal; but use the characters from the book, not the film!

Book review journals; large looseleaf notebooks with a page for each book, on which the reader is invited to record his comments. Children enjoy seeing what their peers have thought about a book almost as much as they like to find their own contribution.

Displays of children's book reviews, pictures, poems, or original stories. These may also become a Library Magazine, bound in annual volumes and added to the library stock.

Reading clubs are popular during the summer holidays. Members receive a badge and agree to attempt a specific number of books from the club reading list. The book reviews or illustrations submitted as a record are displayed in the library, and a certificate of his reading is issued to each member at the end of the summer.

Art clubs appeal to the number of children who are good readers and also possess artistic ability. A library club in which the members choose a book they have enjoyed and prepare a mural or diorama from it as a library display is doubly enjoyable for these children. It can be organized in the same way as other library clubs.

Recordings, film strips, and films related to the book collection are much used in America, but few Australian libraries have as yet given much thought to these media since loan collections of films, records or tapes are still largely outside their budgets on the priorities at present accepted. They can be immensely effective, especially in the visual or aural presentation of those subjects best appreciated through an added dimension; for example in the actual sound of music or poetry. It is sometimes argued that since our society is becoming increasingly visually oriented the library should follow suit. It is true that these media have a tremendously vivid impact, but this is because they speak primarily to the senses rather than the evaluative mind. Since thinking is hard work, and reading itself requires considerable effort, it is no wonder that a recorded substitute should be immensely attractive. However, the written word remains the basis of communication, and the municipal library the only comprehensive resource available to the general public. I believe there is real danger in the over-enthusiasm which would make the library into an audio-visual centre at the expense of the book collection. Similarly there is a danger in the use of audio-visual extension activities without regard as to whether they really lead to the greater use of the library's basic collection or whether they might in fact offer an unchallenging substitute and lead to its neglect. Those libraries scheduling film sessions as an easy and well attended substitute for the story hour might do well to query their usefulness from this standpoint.

In spite of audio-visual competition, the time-honoured "live" story-telling session remains the most popular library extension activity, both with librarians and their clientele. Its importance lies in the fact that it is a demonstration of the pleasure of verbal communication. It is practised in virtually every country having children's libraries. Lionel McColvin, in Libraries for children, suggests that the first libraries were a cave or a hillside, with the story-teller and his audience; and it is perhaps a subconscious feeling for the essential rightness of storytelling that prompts its almost universal acceptance by children's librarians. The story-telling session itself may take various forms. For the older boys and girls who are book enthusiasts, it can be a reading club in which a book is read aloud as a serial, with the participants sharing their reactions to the story. True story-telling, in which tales are retold from memory, requires natural ability plus careful preparation. It also needs an audience

sufficiently mature to be able to concentrate on the spoken word. When well done this traditional story-telling can be a most enjoyable experience, well worth the effort for all concerned.

The picture-book story hour combining the told story with the visual impact of the illustrations is the easiest to handle. It is less demanding, and also has the most universal appeal, particularly with the younger children and those who are not read to at home. Such children often come from families who do not use the library, and so this activity can be an introduction to the public library and its opportunities. Junior staff members can often conduct these sessions very well, but they must be familiar with a wide range of picture books in order to adjust the programme to the interest level of the children, for many of whom it will be a new experience.

The above activities presuppose that the child has first arrived at the library. Unfortunately many children do not. If the library is genuinely interested in reaching all the children, contact should be made with the schools. Some of the most effective extension activities are those which are undertaken in cooperation with grade teachers or school librarians. These may include not only class visits to the library and library book-talks in the classrooms, but also jointly sponsored projects incorporating quizzes, illustrations, or book reviews as mentioned above. Great care must be taken, however, that the atmosphere surrounding such activities remains free and voluntary, and the activity itself is not presented as a class assignment, lest the library, by association, be identified in the child's mind as an extension activity of the school.

Bulk loans to schools are a disservice, in the end, to both the school and the library, but displays of attractive books on popular subjects from time to time in the schools will encourage children to visit the library in order to borrow them. Reading lists prepared cooperatively with the school librarian ensure that the books on demand are worthwhile titles that the library has in stock.

One cooperative activity in which all children's libraries engage in voluntarily is the assignment battle. It is customary to register despair over this unfair persecution, particularly when the queries come in class lots. However I am not convinced that this imposed activity is altogether a negative one. It does result in bringing the otherwise totally disinclined child into the library, and while he is there the alert librarian might possibly interest him in a book about dinosaurs, or a science-fiction story. Perhaps some day it may be possible to achieve some cooperation amongst the schools as to what subjects will be assigned by whom, and when; and with the school librarians as to a reasonable distribution of responsibility for these provisions.

The realistic librarian will concede that the public library is itself an undervalued area with a large proportion of its potential borrowers. Many children are excluded from the library by reason of their parents' lack of interest in books. In the broadest sense, the most valuable activities may be in those areas of public relations which will bring the library to the public consciousness as an accepted everyday part of life, equivalent to or a part of the weekly shopping expedition. For non-readers the library remains something set apart, exotic and complicated and difficult to comprehend. The children of these parents will be discouraged from using the library even if their school experience has demonstrated its value; and their lack of an early association with books will put them at a cultural disadvantage from the very beginning. Many of these families are migrants, from countries where there is no community library service; but a large proportion are native Australians who do not fit into the middle-class cultural pattern upon which the library traditionally concentrates its attention.

If the library really intends to serve the public then it must accept the responsibility for reaching these members of the community, and convincing them that it can become a worthwhile addition to their lives (providing of course that it can make good this claim, by offering a collection that reflects the interests of the entire community rather than a select minority). Such library publicity would need to be channeled through the local mass communication media, for this is the normal and accepted way in which most information is acquired. Shop posters, notices in railway stations and baby health centres, country radio programmes, a library column in the local newspaper all fit into this pattern. The library can be brought to the public through special activities during Library Week, on the library's anniversary or Sir Henry Bolte's birthday. Such activities should be concentrated in the shopping centres; a footpath stall handing out publicity material, an empty shopfront set up as a sample of the library collection. Picture-book story-telling sessions could be held regularly during school holidays in the park, and in community halls such as those attached to council flat buildings in the inner suburbs. Any such activities, of course, are newsworthy, and should receive good publicity in the local press.

A more dynamic approach to the problem of breaking the library barrier would be an extension activity bringing the library literally to the people. If traditional concepts of stock control were dispensed with it could be made quite feasible. Depository collections could be provided wherever a sufficient concentration of people indicated their desirability - in a shop front in any local shopping centre, for example, or a room in a complex of high-rise flats. The stock would consist of a wide range of popular paperbacks, from picture-book Puffins through adult mystery and science fiction. Because the books themselves would be cheap and expendable, charging could be accomplished by some simple token system, and the books retained or exchanged for others as frequently or infrequently as the borrower desired. The only record needed would be the borrower's enrolment form entitling him to perhaps two tokens which would be exchanged for books. Enrolment would also bring the new borrower a separate library card for use in the orthodox part of the library system, and it would be interesting to discover how much crossover would occur.

I cherish a mental picture of Giovanni the fruiterer stuffing James Bond back in his pocket while he attends to the oranges, and Denise the cleaner's daughter rushing in to exchange The Borrowers for the next in the series. Would it really happen? Who can tell?

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UNDERVALUED AREAS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIANSHIP : YOUTH

by
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Nunawading

As a rugged student remarked, 'It is terrifying how defenceless Nature is - against Man. After all, the earth is a very small garden.' It is our sharper consciousness of all nature, of the marvellous variety of our greatest and most squandered resource - people, as persons - that impels us to ask: how long before we can be more effective with more individuals?

Nothing is more certain for the youth of today than that their lives will be uncertain, and the fast changes which they will have to face demand new imaginative solutions. The library, too, has a fundamental role in equipping the young but by default it is shortchanging most of those who are on the threshold of adulthood.

The mode of our institutions, and their grace and favour financial support, were evolved in the mood of optimistic gradualism which prevailed up to the first half of this century.

A flashback, compressed and personal, may help to explain why I believe we should now take fresh, positive action.

Our generation was beset by shock and change, so it is only natural that society was punch-drunk for twenty or thirty years and as the consciousness can absorb only so much it was a consequence that Man had to busy himself with survival and the daily round. First came the dismay that legislation and nickel taps and apparent growth had nothing to do with civilization, and Man's inhumanity welled up through this first crack in the crust. Like the ancients, we were dispiritedly aware that of all creatures, only Man has real reason and yet at the same time he is the most unreasonable.

After the trauma of the second world war, there emerged a concentrated will and optimism for a rebirth of society. There were some misgivings about underfed populations, but the message did not grip the world for some time because communications were more rarefied then and because everyone resists change. We did our best to absorb the changes which came so very fast, but there was so much to be done.

Overall, there was still the hope that good will, the concept of one world, new ways, new organisation of society would lead us into verdant valleys, where life could be lived and not fearfully endured.

Quickly the new vision was dissipated by nationalism - the cold war and new power struggles, and energies were concentrated on industrial and material growth at the expense of less tangible human needs such as education which was directly hitched to shortrange goals.

There were no historical analogies from which to take comfort. Scarcely had we become used to the bomb threat which, paradoxically, brought the people of the world together as never before, than a more sinister cloud lumbered across our heaven: would the biosphere last another thirty years?

Now, by the 1970's, the prospect looks harsh. Growth for growth's sake feeds on the very people it was supposed to serve. It is now known that dense urban living does not of itself cause the aberrations whose extremes are destructive

aggression or self-destructive inertia, both of which are the root cause of the inner impoverishment of the individual, who because relative achievement eludes him, is deprived of self-esteem and identity, and is without hope.

So the water rises on two sides. How can we quickly channel the current of technological expansion which destroys the biosphere? Only from new ideas, new philosophies, new syntheses, which we cannot guess at, which will come from the fullest human use of human beings. This in turn depends on how quickly and effectively we halt the race toward the insane society; how quickly we can create a climate for positive mental health.

It is just the wishful-thinking of middle-age to believe that, in the midst of rolling catastrophes, we are now poised before Man's greatest opportunity to realise his noblest ideals. And there are three signposts:

1. *At last the enemies, the threats, the fears, are identified. For the first time, Man thinks and feels that he is global Man: that there is no race but the human race. In the Thirties it was held that Freedom is the Knowledge of Necessity; the articulate young know this but too few are equipped to act constructively as part of 'exuberant democracy'.*

2. *The radical behaviourists have been walking on water for two generations, leaving out the imaginative, creative, INDETERMINATE mind of Man, the spirit of Man if you like. Even a decade ago this switch in emphasis would have taken a generation to become common knowledge. Now time moves faster but no machine can emulate the marvels of the human mind! The 'unbounded human spirit' is not a romantic cliche. Noam Chomsky in his work on linguistics has demonstrated that speech, (and therefore imagination), are not determined by conditioning, but by habit learning. It is some INNATE predisposition of the mind which determines language structure, so experimental rats will now kindly resume their correct size and status.*

3. *The unbrutalised young who we are glad to say, are still full of lust - for honesty, justice and tenderness.*

The end product of reading is not more books but more living. Books and reading stand for the whole growing family of recorded words, images and sounds all of which have especial interest for the Youth Librarian. At the centre of this interest, lies self-knowledge and greater freedom for self-realisation, coupled with the perception of a 'collection of meaning', which creates an awareness of possibilities, for achievement.

This is the deep conviction behind all our work. It is our goad that we are restrained from demonstrating it to the unconfident, the humble and the dulled, and legitimate basic services are postponed - to the sick, the old for instance - which, in affluent countries with obligatory library services, are at least a generation old.

In plain basics, we cannot meet the whole known demand, nor can we perform in a truly positive and effective way. Within the library, exchange between librarian and reader should be a fruitful experience for both as it is in children's work where this regard for the individual is never submerged. If it is good for the under-twelves, surely it is as significant for the teen-ager.

We all agree that the library's relationship with people of all ages should be personal and direct, and that the whole library is the best demonstration of its usefulness to all. Libraries must be more quickly developed. Gradual increases in resources, staff and materials, enable us to hold the position, with very slow

real advance; external, positive work from a flimsy base requires effort disproportionate to the results. The staff and running costs may be increased to improve a particular part of the service - Reference, Youth, for instance, but the accelerating general demand, the usual staff turnover and the gaps between replacements, produce a very small nett advance in the intended projects, so the participants become dispirited, and their new audience either remains unreached or fades away, and the Librarian's case in presenting the next year's Estimates is muddied by defensive explanations about shortages and expediencies.

Even libraries with the largest per capita budgets are in no way realistically financed. They are attempting to meet the known needs of over 40% of their populations (in more concentrated communities, the ready-made market is 50% enrolment plus assistance to non-members such as institutions), on budgets which are roughly the estimated minimums for modern library service of ten years ago. At this time the average enrolment in U.K. was less than 32% of the population, and the education/re-training burst had not then taken effect.

Over-simplified, the position is that the known library demand is now 50% or half as much again since that cost basis was accepted as realistic. The extra reader percentage of 18% takes in all ages, and includes secondary and tertiary students.

In some areas, 13% of the population is between 12 and 18 years - 13,000 in 100,000. How many are acquainted with the library? Are we forced to scamp the real, direct work with teen-agers? Is this work vital and urgent? What is its value? If budgets were matched to the 10% to 18% extra general demand (the difference between 32% enrolment and the current 42% to 50%) would you be justified in setting aside all or some of the money for Youth service? If your budget is only One dollar per capita and the library space and materials too restricted to interest any but the converted readers, is it dangerous to embark on any special activity for youth?

The purpose of this talk is to suggest that we use new ways of procuring the resources to work more closely with Youth.

1. Better service should come faster. More local involvement to temporarily augment a Council's contribution may direct wider attention to the question of State and/or Federal support. Should libraries rely more on revenue from taxes than from rates? (A side-benefit could be that poorer areas might be helped by a just return of their own tax contributions. The sad route of taxes via the State Education Departments need not be re-traced).

2. Is it right, just and practicable to direct special attention to Youth? Should special funds be found? I believe so. Their value to the whole library and the whole community could be dynamic. Consider that they will soon be voting, and that they need entertainment less than purposeful activity. In the most affluent suburbs, their complaints centre on their exclusion from affairs while being expected to demonstrate adult responsibility. If youth involvement were a two-way affair, the library would be dynamically stimulated by sharp-eyed critics and by rather more familiarity with the concerns of people born in the 1950's. Our experience is mostly with readers, enrolled members, one-third of whom are uncritical younger children. The library's artificial walls should be breached. Its image as a middle-class institution for squares would be shown to be nonsense. In effect, youth has more to give us than the other way round. A Library Youth Council, given its head, could contrive real advances: for instance it could organise a public campaign for service to the elderly and housebound. I see no reason why such a group could not follow through the whole programme - from

arousing public concern, to pulling pursestrings, overcoming impediments with imagination and daring, and regularly calling on a reader, happy to be of use and responding to the pleasure of pleasing.

The first essential is a Youth Librarian, an EXTRA appointment. The proposal may require public support before a Council will approve the extra expenditure. It could begin on a three year term only. It may be that the Chief Librarian will have to do much lobbying, with powerful allies, in which case he starts the ball rolling with a group as suggested in the next point.

Hopefully by now a Youth Librarian has been appointed. His or her job is mostly outside the library, reconnoitring the community and the most useful people (the local Youth Council first, if there is one). He will draw up a tentative programme and present it to the interested group - the interim and unofficial youth library action committee: priorities are sifted, resources examined, then translated into a budget. I suggest a three-year programme (more likely to succeed if called a Project) drawn up with considerable care. Aims and methods must be clear. It should be immediately obvious that this is not more of the same sort of publicity and liaison. You want EXTRA money. The programme is EXTRA. Coming back to interested people the most important are teachers, and school librarians, from Technical Schools particularly, who will be a check against unreal theorising: we have much to learn from teachers: their captive audiences are very different from most of ours, and our library training gives us nothing by way of educational psychology, motivation and attainment levels, not even psychology of the child or the adolescent. Perhaps this will come at last with a degree course!

The annual cost of a Youth Programme would begin with salaries; then comes running costs (external expenses - transport, publicity + T.V., Open House Sunday junkets); stock is last because it attracts gift monies more easily (grants from local associations, memorial gifts.)

For a population of 100,000 with 13,000 between 12 - 18 years, the basic ingredients might be:

Youth Librarian: Salary say - - - - - -	$5,700
1 Assistant Librarian - - - - - - - -	4,000
1/3 Clerical, secretarial, etc. - - - - -	1,100
	10,800
Publicity, information, running expenses	
Overtime rates - extra 50% for Sunday afternoons + caretaker - - - - -	1,000
Stock - Sample stock & aids - - - - - -	1,200
	$13,000 = per capita (13,000 youth)

Suggested Sources:

Of general library overhead, say $2 per capita, used in common by all readers, allocate to Youth Dept. 1/3 per capita, i.e. 66 cents per capita. on 13,000	$ 8,580
Then, special annual levy for 3 years to yield 34.1 cents per capita for 13,000 (approx. 15 cents on each annual rate assessment) say,	4,500
	$13,080

This illustrates the approach to a special allocation and the example netts only an extra $4500. By specifying in Estimates a special fund for Youth (as for Children's and Reference departments) budget increases can be more precisely justified; the effect of reductions, applied item by item, is directly obvious.

If Council cannot meet from general revenue the total expenses for Youth Services, it is entitled to raise a levy on each rate assessment. Ratepayers, perhaps not eager, are nevertheless more willing to contribute for a short term to a specific and manifest development from which they see something for their money.

To reiterate: a serious weakness in the service is defined, isolated and translated into costs. The Library Committee and the committee of interested persons seeks the help of the community. Their contacts and experiences will go beyond the locality and new ways and means will be seized on.

Why do I ignore the stock? Why cost it at only $1000? Firstly salaries are disproportionate! If good lively staff are FREE to act, they will achieve wider support, more solid and tangible support, than a harassed Chief Librarian and Children's Librarian can effect from sudden darts and sallies. A youth librarian sets about creating a climate for the project and the procuring of the means, which means lobbying! In this, American libraries are braver and more politically active . The youth librarian or team will present a positive three year plan about Youth and its needs and what the library could do if given the means. The same approach is feasible in libraries which have tiny budgets but as the librarian will be sadly over-worked, this is where colleagues could help in drawing up a first programme and soliciting the help of useful citizens.

For all libraries, and even for areas without libraries, time would go further if library staffs who are interested in Youth Action could get together, to grapple with the tough practical questions of priorities of service, the choices in organisation and method (there are no absolutes) and to prepare themselves for representation on State and Federal Youth Councils, so that as a body they could act wherever it seemed useful. By becoming familiar with social statistics, with political mechanics, with official, semi-official and voluntary agencies whose concern is some aspect of young people's growth and welfare, this group could be quite dazzling. And of most significance it would be an exciting change from swopping convictions and beliefs in a segregated game with other utterly convinced librarians.

Young staff have little chance and less confidence to express really fresh ideas: the mental imposition of our own libraries - of buildings bounded in space

and time - must be lifted. Given the green light, young library lions might just happen to transform the illuminated library into true psychedelic living for their peers, for us, and for themselves.

Talking points:

Youth:
young, middle-aged teenagers, young adults?
focus on early school-leavers?
student demand
target group is that which had no access to good school or public libraries; whose schooling was no appetiser for life.

Youth Librarian:
what and who? Qualities? If necessary, choice between professional librarian and personal capacities? (advantage that even in U.S.A. there is no special training course? New ways, experiments within each library; no commandments to break. See Lucille Hatch's comments in Library Trends, as listed.)

Schools:
time ripe for joint action with secondary schools?
Note the interest in widening hours and public usage of some High School libraries, halls, sporting facilities.
Creative and unpaid work now eagerly sought by University students and their mentors as part of their studies, especially by intending English teachers among the undergrads. Harsh questions about what is a good book.
Note too, bibliography on adolescence in progress at La Trobe.

Other organisations:
Chambers of Commerce, Lions, Apex, Rotary, Churches now press us for action. Local industry gains from better workforce, better ideas, becomes inventive instead of imitative. No longer need the hobby and artistic groups carry the message on their own. Friends of the Library are carburettor and ceramics lovers.

National Youth Council:
are we represented on its State Council? Case for Federal funds through this agency for a special project? Can local M.P. advise you? Who is the Federal Minister?

Is this pie in the sky? You have no staff, too many readers, scant material and the building is squalid anyway.

'The library must be more solid before being extravagant with non-book materials, let alone losing hundreds of paperbacks and periodicals in a year. It is just not possible to bring into the library oddly-assorted groups for a reference demo.' It is because most libraries cannot do this for any great numbers (even if it were the right approach) that we need radical ideas from the young themselves. The idea of this centripetal-gathering-in has to be pushed out of our minds, and replaced by something more akin to the worker-priest idea. The Youth Librarian will be conspicuous only if mostly absent from the library!

'Who would work on Sundays? Every Sunday? The youth team would work very different hours from the rest. Even though odd nights and say weekends were within the thirty-five hours, overtime rates would apply.' These were allowed for in the cost example given. In any case, this is begging the question: a draft programme, what is desirable, is costed. You conceal your terror, and start pushing, without

compromise. The compromises, the priorities are made much later on. A few years ago, an AMERICAN study revealed that on average librarians were amongst the most intelligent among similar professions - and the least agressive!

Agressive prosecution of a cause should not be shrill, hostile, or martyred. This paper is an object lesson in how not to present a case to a harried public.

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THE FILM SOCIETY AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

by

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What actually is a film society? It is a group of people who join together because they wish to see, study and discuss films which would not otherwise be shown in their locality. And the aims of a film society should be to encourage film appreciation - to believe in the cinema as a serious means of communication and artistic expression, just as capable as the printed word of conveying inspiration, ideas and facts.

If any of you would seriously challenge the inclusion of film along with books, manuscripts, periodicals, prints, records, slides, as being the concern of to-day's public libraries, I should like to refer you to an article by Raynard C. Swank published in Library Journal 17 years ago, and reprinted in Books - Libraries - Librarians. He examines half of dozen popular fallacies about film, and stresses that instead of emphasizing the mechanical separateness of the various media, we should as librarians concern ourselves with the content and the educational purposes of all of them ... consciously use them together.

The first film society screening in the world was on October 25th, 1925 by the London Film Society. The movement grew through the twenties and thirties, usually with screenings on 35 mm gauge in cinemas on Sundays, when they were closed to the public.

During the last year of the Second World War and immediately following it there was a great growth of the film society movement, largely due to the increased war-time use of the 16 mm society with fifty or fewer members in a small hall with portable equipment, in contrast to a 35 mm society which requires a cinema with the necessary two projectors and needs hundreds of members to finance such requirements.

The present Federation of Film Societies was formed in Britain in 1945, and began a movement which spread throughout the world, each country having up to thousands of societies forming its own Federation, these Federations in turn being members of the International Federation of Film Societies.

In Australia, only the Worker's Educational Association in Sydney was in existence before 1944. Just after the war John Grierson visited Australia, the State Film Centre was established in Victoria and the non-theatrical exhibition of films was under way. One of the main channels of this exhibition was the film Society. Several were founded and by 1949 barely a dozen joined together to form the Federation of Victorian Film Societies. About this time, a Federation was formed in N.S.W. and others followed in Tasmania and Queensland. The Australian Council of Film Societies came into being in 1951 and at its first convention in N.S.W. Victorian delegates invited the Council to hold its next convention in Victoria. The conference arranged for January 1952 became part of the now legendary Olinda Film Festival, birthplace of the Melbourne Film Festival. Today, Victoria is the only state with a strong Federation and film societies in other states frequently turn to Victoria for leadership rather than to their own moribund organizations.

There is a very helpful publication of the Victorian Federation from which I shall be quoting sizable chunks, called Forming and running a film society.

This passage is from the opening pages:

The work of the gradual spreading of interest in the film as an art form has not been easily accomplished but it has been considerably aided by the work of Federations in improving relations with the trade on both State and local levels. In addition to the normal film society work of introducing films not usually available, much other work is carried out by the movement, such as arranging suitable screenings of films for children, church and community groups, encouragement of film production and arranging lectures on film appreciation. In this latter regard it is interesting to note that the spirit which animates the film societies is spreading to the field of organised education. Courses in film appreciation are at last beginning to take their place along with those on music or drama, poetry or painting in adult education groups and teachers' training colleges.

One could wish that more civic bodies realised the value of film as an educational medium and assisted societies in much the same way as they do libraries.

Another statement on the same lines was made recently by Bosley Crowther, former film critic for the New York Times in an address to the New York State Educational Communications Association reprinted in Library Journal, 15th April, 1970. He remarked that a film society or a film club - could be and should be an adjunct of every good library in the country today.

These two quotations lead on to the next question - Why form a film society? The film industry is organised on the basis of broad appeal and produces films for the millions - films made to circulate to cinemas rapidly. Usually, strange themes, unorthodox forms of treatment and serious subjects and even foreign languages do not aid popularity. The members of a film society, whilst recognising that cinema and television is a mass medium, desire the opportunity to see the films which by accident or design or old age lack the broad appeal necessary for cinema exhibition either in the main cities or suburban and country areas. The members usually want to know more about the people who contribute to the making of the film. Thus a film society is an organization devoted to the exhibition of films which are not otherwise widely shown. Some societies include special programmes for studying the history of the cinema or the work of a single director, or special purpose films - such as documentary or experimental. Most groups will wish to screen the best examples from any category. A film society's activities are not highbrow and boring - a fine comedy or an outstanding animated cartoon is just as important as a serious "silent classic".

As part of the film society's function is to show films which are not seen elsewhere many of the films screened by societies demand more from their audience - the overcoming of prejudices and fixed attitudes - the acceptance of unusual subject matter and techniques - the unfamiliar and the unpalatable - than most other film programmes whether in the commercial cinema or on television. The same demand is made by good theatre or good literature ... the demand that only the open mind will continue to want, accept and appreciate. It is the film society's job to shoulder the cause for the Idea film, the thought provoking controversial film, as well as the party film.

I shall deal now with the relationship between the public library and the local film society, with special reference to those at Oakleigh, and include a brief account of the formation of Oakleigh Film Society and its progress to date, as an example of the success of such an activity when it is assisted by the library. It has been difficult to find much information about many similar

arrangements, though I feel sure they must exist. I will mention those I have learned about later on.

I want to suggest to you that there will be many advantages to your library resulting from a decision to foster a film society. The formation of a film society will extend the influence of the Library and the use of the collection, will bring new people into contact with your staff, and the development of friendships amongst its members should, with encouragement from your institution lead to further desirable cultural growth.

Some of the members of a film society will have subsidiary interests in music, art, foreign language, drama, literature, reform of censorship. They will want to develop these interests too, if they find others similarly inclined, but their major interest is films, and they will not be so concerned with actually initiating some other activity themselves. Others, however, will have been attracted to the film society although their major interest is in some field, simply because they have been unable to find sufficient outlet for their chief passion in their neighbourhood - a foreign language and culture, music (it is amazing how many people request films about music), fine arts, film as an adjunct to literature, film-making itself. Those interested in early Australiana will often make their first contact with the film society when they discover it is to screen On our selection or The sentimental bloke. If two or three of these meet together, you may have the nucleus of yet another society. Let it be known that your hall is available free to such groups. Often they possess their own equipment and need simply a central meeting-place. People who are interested in film are also avid readers, but not all for the same reasons. Some will read filmscripts and appreciation of the cinema, others the story of the film. Yet again, others are interested in the biographies of Chaplin, Keaton, Garbo. They read at a variety of levels ranging from Harold Robbins to McLuhan, Tolstoy to Eisenstein, for entertainment and escapist thrill, for information and cultural enrichment, but the fact remains that they are some of the library's most enthusiastic borrowers. Their borrowing does not appear to become diminished by the amount of film they see, and they will introduce and initiate newcomers and young people in the use of the library, through the film society, if the reverse procedure has not already taken place, and these newcomers and adolescents have not found the film society through the library.

A film society should be justified as an extension activity completely run by the library, but surely only if funds and staff were available for all other necessary library functions first. Therefore it becomes necessary to allow it to be organized by a committee of its own, not necessarily dominated by the library. The ideal situation is when a member of the library staff is sufficiently interested to initiate the formation of a society, and to continue as a committee member, thus providing the necessary liaison between library and society, but this should not be a limiting factor. If the necessary facilities are available some trial programmes could be arranged, at very little expense, to discover whether the audiences attracted might not possess the germ of a film society.

When I started to prepare this paper, I tried to find out about the relationship of other libraries to the film societies in their own neighbourhoods. In Britain, it appears that film societies, run by their own committees, do operate frequently in library theatrettes. In the United States, it seems that screenings of films are more often organised by the library itself. The Winter 1966-67 issue of Texas Libraries contains an interesting account of the Audio-Visual Department, Dallas Public Library, which was celebrating its 25th anniversary. During the previous year they had screened 285 titles, and had acquired for their own holdings

between 50-60 films. Library Journal, April, 15th, 1968, contains an account of a Film Festival for young adults programmed by a New York Library without a film department, which was apparently a great success. They programmed The Maltese Falcon (Humphrey Bogart), The bank dick (W.C. Fields) and the Marx Brothers in, A day at the races, which are film society fare by anyone's standards. However, the whole subject of film societies and public libraries is very poorly documented with few references in library indexes and abstracts. There has been no reply to my letter following up the most likely reference I was able to locate.

In Victoria, several film societies screen in library theatres, and in some cases have to pay a not inconsiderable charge to the council concerned for this privilege. I circularised those societies which were thought to receive some encouragement from their library, and the only secretary who replied that this was indeed the case was from Geelong Regional Film Council. Here are some details of their operations.

They screen in the Library, using their own projector, but a screen is provided in the Library by Geelong Council, and no charge is made for its use. The organization is done by a committee, and there are at least two screenings a month, sometimes an extra screening. One of the monthly screenings is for members only, the other is open to the public free of charge. The extra screenings are on topics of public interest, with discussion afterwards - e.g. drugs, crime, censorship, etc. The annual subscription is low - $2.50 for adult members and $1.25 for student members. Coffee and biscuits are served at all screenings, which encourages members and the public to mix. Once a month there is a free screening of films for children on a Saturday morning at a nearby theatre, and during school holidays films for children are shown in the library. This year and last Geelong Regional Film Council organized a weekend seminar on French Cinema in a small hired theatre.

State Film Centre arranges for films from its library to be held at Regional Libraries at Rosebud, Ballarat, Echuca, Bendigo and Warrnambool as well as at Geelong for use by organizations in these regions. Bendigo and Ballarat have film societies, but these do not appear to function in connection with the libraries; the other centres do not appear to have film societies, at any rate not ones affiliated with the Federation of Victorian Films Societies.

There is no compulsion on film societies to join the Federation but there are may advantages in doing so. To begin with, the film libraries will trust you, if you are able to put affiliated with F.V.F.S. on the top of your official stationery, and this will smooth the way when requesting films. The society will receive copies of Federation News, a large periodical which provides reviews and lists of feature films and shorts available, and information on film sources. The society will have a vote in the policy of the Federation (one delegate for societies with under 50 members, 2 for over 50, 3 for over 100), and your members will get priority for applications for Melbourne Film Festival - perhaps not so important to people living in the country, but a great incentive for those in the city. Speakers for special programmes can be provided by the Federation, and advice and programme notes are available on request, and help is given in starting a society with matters like drafting a constitution, and supply of leaflets for promotion. Interest free loans are available for the purchase of equipment, such as projector and screen. The society's constitution has to be approved before affiliation, but the main requirements are that the society should not charge for admission, be non-profit making with unpaid officials, and that it should be formed to encourage interest in film as an art and as a medium for information and education.

To turn now to our own experience, this really began with my own interest and the fact that one of our borrowers also expressed interest and was a qualified projectionist. We placed a poster on the library notice board asking for interested persons to hand their names to the Readers' Adviser. When our new library building was nearly completed with a hall suitable for exhibiting 16 mm films, we circularised all these people and about a dozen arrived for a meeting. I had previously been in touch with the Federation of Victorian Film Societies and they had arranged for Mr. Erwin Rado and Mrs. Jacqueline Lublin to attend this first meeting. They explained to us the advantages of joining the Federation, the necessity of having a committee and constitution, and went on to help us arrange an inaugural meeting.

For this, we placed a prominent notice on the board in the library, and in 3 or 4 other places in the locality where we had contacts, ran off about 200 announcements which were distributed in the library as books were issued, and managed to get a small paragraph into the gossip column of the local paper. Mr. Rado arranged to bring a projector, projectionist, and a Hungarian feature film to the inaugural meeting, this was shown after the actual meeting was held, as an example of the sort of programme we would be putting on.

An audience of 85 was attracted, overcrowding the small council theatrette which was being used until the new building was completed. Mr. Rado spoke about art films and film societies after which a provisional committee of 8 was appointed, seven of us being people who had attended the first meeting, and the eighth a gentleman who nominated himself, and who was rather a nuisance to the rest of us all that first year, as he was really only interested in censorship (and books rather than films at that) and would digress at every opportunity.

This meeting was held in November 1966 and we recruited several members on that night as it had been informally decided that the annual subscription would be $4.00. A meeting of the committee was held a week later, at which Mrs. Lublin was present in order to advise us. The constitution was partly worked out, and a film selection committee of three appointed. During the next two months programmes were planned and booked, the constitution drafted, members enrolled and notices placed in strategic places. The first general meeting was held in February, 1967 the constitution accepted and the temporary committee elected, with over 60 members attending to view the first programme, Jacques Tati's Mon oncle.

Membership rose to 86 that year, and there were 10 16 mm screenings, 3 35 mm screenings at a nearby theatre and one extra 16 mm screening when we showed Hitchcock's The birds and had a guest speaker, Mr. Robert Rothols, from Ferntree Gully Film Society, to introduce the film and keep the discussion under control afterwards. This was a great success, and we resolved to continue with this sort of programme. We always showed a feature film, and these came from U.S.A., Britain, France, Germany and Italy with an Australian silent - The sentimental-bloke. In Addition, short films were shown from four other countries.

In the second year membership only reached 65, although we screened ten regular programmes, including Citizen Kane, The blue angel, Battleship Potemkin, The loneliness of the long distance runner, as well as a Japanese and an Indian film, plus five screenings with speakers and discussion, and two 35 mm programmes.

A fall-off in membership is quite common to film societies during their second year of operation, one reason being that quite a proportion of the first year's membership is obviously for reasons of goodwill, by people who attend once or twice, or not at all, and do not rejoin, such as, in our case, a local councillor, and a high percentage of the library's staff. In addition, like most societies, we

were going through a period of adjustment during these first two years, with many and varying difficulties. On some occasions our projectionist let us down at short notice - once we had to appeal to the audience "is there a projectionist in the house?" and luckily there was - a teacher, who had never used our type of projector before, but he did a very fine job. In the very beginning we had not even had a projector, but had loaned or hired them until Oakleigh Council purchased one for library use in time for our fifth screening. This was a nerve-wracking experience I would advise everyone to avoid. The projector is essential - and make sure you have one before you start. The purchase price for one may be borrowed from the Federation of Victorian Film Societies interest free, even for a secondhand projector, and advice given about which sort to buy. Later in the first year the Council also acquired a screen. One is not essential of course, but it is an added refinement which impresses members!

An additional problem in the second year was that one member of the selection committee refused to see the necessity to book films well ahead, and we had started the year with only three films firmly booked, and were consequently unable to publicise our programme for the whole year early in the season. This seems to be an essential for the small society - only the very large society working under ideal conditions, such as Melbourne Film Society, can get away with not telling members in advance what they will be seeing. People want to know what you are offering them, and if you can spread your publicity sheets around with details of ten or more programmes you will find people joining just because they particularly want to see one film in six months time. And bringing their friends along to join too! A 35 mm society can book at short notice from the ordinary commercial distributors, but 16 mm films are very frequently booked many months in advance, especially the free ones. Therefore, for our third year, I as secretary practically ignored the appointed selection committee without making it too obvious, and went ahead with the booking on my own. That is to say, I accepted their general recommendations, but settled details of specific bookings on my own, and this is the way it appears that film society bookings can be done most successfully. The ten general screenings and four of the five discussions were firmly booked before we started in February, and we were able to get a paragraph in the local paper mentioning that we would be showing Ivan the terrible Part 1, Knife in the water, Bicycle thieves, and On our selection. Our membership reached 87, and we also put on an extra programme on the early history of the cinema towards the end of the year, as several of our members were showing a strong interest in this direction.

Projectionists who were members of the Ormond Movie Club, which had also started to use the Library Theatrette during the past year had helped us on one occasion when our projectionist was unavailable and volunteered to project for us regularly. We gratefully accepted their offer, and have had virtually troublefree projection ever since. The combination of reliable projection and early publicity worked wonders and for the first time instead of attendances falling off in the second half of the year, they increased! This year we have ten regular programmes of films like World of Apu, Blow-up, Cocteau's Beauty and the beast, and Wild in the streets, five programmes with discussions and speakers, five on the history of the cinema (mainly silent films, including The cabinet of Dr. Caligari and The end of St. Petersburg), and a few extra informal study programmes - chiefly from the French Embassy, to take advantage of the wealth of free material available. All this for $4.00 for ordinary members, $2.00 for students and pensioners, annual subscription. Membership this year has reached 89, the highest yet.

I hope this rather lengthy account of our history has not been too tiresome, but I feel that in some ways it could be used as a blue-print for getting a film

society on its feet, and for avoiding some of the pitfalls we fell into. To summarise from our own experience, I would say that you can run a film society quite efficiently with only two active, enthusiastic members. One must be Secretary, arrange bookings, film pick-up and return, programme notes and membership. The other must be the projectionist, but unless your projectionist is absolutely devoted, it is better to have a team of them. It is best if they do not really care about actually seeing the films too much, but are happy just to use the projector and watch bits. There are, surprisingly lots of such people around, but they don't usually join film societies, they join movie clubs.

Extra committee members can be a great help with publicity, enrolling new members, distributing programmes, looking after guests and supper, to help with a balanced selection policy and for enthusiastic support. And you need a co-operative library and council to provide the hall and seating, and if possible the projector and screen. Many societies provide all these themselves, but such societies could be struggling without a large membership, hard-working committees, possible higher subscriptions, and would probably put on fewer screenings.

Quite an important part of film society activity which I have hardly mentioned till now is the provision of programme notes, and this publication should be used to inform, stimulate and educate your members. Copies should be sent to all local groups in the area which could have an interest in the society. Such notes or newsletter can be registered at the G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical, to take advantage of reduced postal rates. However, many societies merely distribute them at the screening, or distribute them a month in advance at the screening and post copies only to those members who have not attended. Library material is a help in composing these notes, but most film society secretaries soon find themselves with a collection of special periodicals to provide this sort of information. It only takes an hour or so a month to assemble the material for these notes, but if the library can assist with an efficient stencil typist and a duplicating machine the secretary's task is eased and the programme notes are more attractively presented. As they are likely to be displayed on a Film Society Notice Board in a library which is supporting a film society this is all to the good. Lists of new books of interest to members may be added to the programme notes from time to time, and special mention made of the "book of the film" in cases where it may not be well-known, or has recently been added to the library collection, as was the case when we screened Pather Panchali. Incidentally, such a notice board can become an attractive feature in the foyer of a library, with photographs when obtainable, of forthcoming programmes and artistically lettered signs.

Collections of still photographs from certain films may be borrowed from State Film Centre for display by film societies. When we screened Ivan the Terrible Part II this year a collection of stills from this film was displayed in the library for about three weeks beforehand. State Film Centre hope to be able to compile a catalogue of these stills so that they may be more easily borrowed. There is also a collection of blocks for use in printing, which may also be borrowed. The stills and blocks are mostly for films which have been shown at Melbourne Film Festivals.

As for the availability of films to programme - there is a wealth of free material in this country. State Film Centre has an enormous number of short films, many of them in colour and made very recently, only a few feature films though there are many documentary films of over one hour in length, and quite a number of classical documentaries by directors who have since become famous, Karel Reisz, Lindsay Anderson, Georges Franju. All you have to pay is the freight back to State

Film Centre, usually about 15 cents in the city for a full programme. It is advisable to book many months in advance to obtain the films you want.

Films from the National Library Collection in Canberra may also be borrowed through State Film Centre, under the same conditions. There is a Film Study Collection of over 60 classic films, mainly features, and not all of them silent ones. These include Battleship Potemkin, (the version with the added sound track with Shostakovich's music), Birth of a nation, Intolerance, Chaplin's The kid, Nanock of the north, 2 Buster Keaton silents, Phantom of the opera, The sentimental bloke, Scarface, The blue angel, (the Dietrich and Emil Jannings version) and Renoir's La grande illusion.

Films are available from the French, German, Polish, Czech, Yugoslav, Russian and some other embassies. The French collection consists of over 80 feature films including such as Last year at Marienbad, Breathless - indeed films by Godard, Resnais, Malle, Chabrol, Robbe-Grillet, de Broca, Demy, Franju, Bresson, Rene Clair, Carne, Ophuls, Clouzot, Cocteau, Renoir, mostly with English subtitles. The other embassies have fewer famous names in their collections, but many are of interest to film buffs. All these may be borrowed free of charge, but freight has to be paid, sometimes only the return freight, sometimes both ways, either to Canberra or Sydney. However, from time to time State Film Centre holds certain of these films in Melbourne, usually for three months, so that Victorian societies may book them during that time and need only pay freight to Melbourne. City and suburban societies are expected to pick up and return such special films by hand, so that they may be borrowed by as many societies as possible during the limited time they are available in Melbourne. Several months notice is usually given of when they will be at State Film Centre, to help in booking arrangements.

Quality Films in Sydney imports films chiefly for the film society business and these are also available from State Film Centre for limited seasons, but hire has to be paid, usually about $12.00 or $15.00. Quite a large number of Russian, Polish, Indian, French, Italian, Canadian and Japanese films are available, and new imports are made each year.

Sixteen Millimetre Pty. Ltd. and other commercial distributors all hold stocks of English language films which may be borrowed for $12.00, $14.00, $15.00, rising to $20.00 for Bonnie and Clyde. The charges are based on the estimated size of your audience. As the function of a film society is usually described as being to show films which are of an educational, scientific, cultural or artistic nature as well as to entertain, this means that you are justified in showing those films which have been neglected by the local cinema operators because they are not box-office or star-studded successes, but which are nonetheless artistic successes, or which, because of their content, treatment or technique merit being shown.

Many very good short films are available from film libraries such as B.P., Comalco (which holds Why man creates by Saul Bass) for no charge.

There's no reason at all, of course, why a film society should have to show a large number of foreign language films. This depends mainly on the taste of the committee, which after all should reflect the taste of the average member. We have found that we get the best response with a well-mixed collection and try to provide films (not necessarily features) from about 8 or 9 different countries each year. Last year we cut down on French films because a couple of committee members had protested that there were too many. However, we had so many complaints from the ordinary members that this year we have loaded them in again - five, not counting the silent ones plus the extra study programmes. One of the worst hazards

with English language films is the way in which they have a nasty habit of turning up on television just about a week before your programme is scheduled. For this reason, I am myself only in favour of showing those which have had insufficient commercial exposure, or which like Blow-up or Hitchcock's films can stand up to any number of viewings. Colour, of course, can be an additional attraction, but the day is coming when colour television will be competing with the film societies. Then, as is happening now, the film societies will be wise to direct their attention to the black and white films that will no longer be so welcome on the television screen, but which (if copies remain in Australia) will form a fine repertory of the thirties, forties and fifties. And of course, it is up to the film societies to get together and see that copies of the best of these do stay in Australia. After all, most people join a film society to see the sort of thing they don't get on TV.

One of the surest ways to discourage your members and to cause a drop in attendances is to programme films which no one on the committee has seen, unless extremely reliable reviews are available. Some societies practise the very democratic method of allowing each member of the committee to choose a programme during the year. This sounds as though it should work successfully, but I get the impression that these are the societies which are also complaining of a drop in membership. Such programming can easily become unbalanced, and you have to contend with the middle-aged female who has fond memories of Genevieve, or hankers after another viewing of Ship of fools - neither of which are strictly film society fare, though they were great box-office successes.

It is a very good idea for any film society to screen two types of programmes - the main screenings (perhaps one a month - that is, 10 a year) to consist of feature films (or feature documentaries) which are known to be successful, or entertaining, plus short films of various kinds. Here are some samples from our 1970 programmes:

Avec Claude Monet; Blow-up
Why man creates; World of Apu
Will the Great Barrier Reef cure Claude Clough; O dreamland;
Ivan the terrible Part II
The pictures that moved; Forbidden games
Yeats country; The vacuum cleaner (Hoffnung); Il posto.

This leaves the more difficult films, or those with less general appeal, in some cases the interesting failures, to be screened at study sessions, discussions, or frankly labelled: History of the cinema. Some societies run another ten or more such programmes, others only one or two a year. It all depends on finances and enthusiasm.

One new venture we have attempted this year has been to show some excellent short French films which do not have English sub-titles, and this has been far more successful than I would have thought possible. Transcripts of the commentaries are available, (through Federation News) and we have duplicated copies of these and distributed them with the programme notes before the screening. The films have been by Resnais, Chris Marker and Franju, all about 20 minutes in length, and none of our members has reproached us for doing this. I feel that the transcription is necessary though - it's frustrating not to be able to follow the narration at all, even if a film is visually brilliant.

On some occasions this year we have invited the general public to attend. Sometimes this has been because we did not anticipate a very large audience of our own members, due to the frequency of our screenings, and one occasion when we screened Night and fog (Resnais' short film of the German concentration camps) we

felt that this particular film deserved a wider audience than it might otherwise receive. Another programme was Film and reality - the history of the documentary film, with which we started our season in February, and this served to introduce the film society to library users who might not otherwise have been interested. We are planning to do this with at least one more of our extra screenings this year. It helps to publicise the society, and it gives the library users and general public who may not actually wish to join us this year the opportunity to see, in this case, a fifty-minute film on Picasso.

When no charge is made for the use of the theatre, a film society may find itself operating successfully and showing as many programmes as it wishes, and still have a small surplus in the bank. It is possible to donate books and periodicals to the library with some of this of course, and there is an excellent periodical, named simply FILM, the official publication of the British Federation of Film Societies, which we donate to Oakleigh Public Library. However, the purchase of additional equipment, which may be shared with other users of the theatrette, is likely to appeal more to the members as a use for surplus funds. This year, the movie club also using the theatre suggested that we might like to co-operate with them in the installation of Cinemascope. They have provided a new screen and also an improved sound system, and we have purchased the new lens. We are looking forward to booking several Cinemascope films next year, to take advantage of this improvement!

Equipment purchased in this way is then held at the library for use by any group using the projector in the theatrette. There is no need for mistakes to be made in choosing equipment. Federation have an executive member ready to help with these matters, if requested.

Another excellent use to which surplus funds may be put is to spend rather more than usual on screening Australian films. In the past of course there hasn't been much scope for this sort of support. Although we have tried to show an Australian film every year, this has only amounted to The picture that moved this year, silent films in the first two years, and Pudding thieves with short films by a selection of Melbourne film makers last year, when Mr. Gerry Elsworth, who had been involved in the production of some of them agreed to attend and speak about the film.

However, we have recently learned that Jack and Jill, made in Melbourne and directed by Phillip Adams is available for hire and this will go right to the top of our selection list for next year. This year some societies have been showing Nigel Buesst's film of Squizzy Taylor, introduced by the director himself, and there are likely to be other opportunities for such projects now that more films are being made here.

An active film society may have members who are willing to assist in screening films for other groups who use the library. Our librarian in charge of Junior Libraries, who was a member of the film society, three years ago encourage a small group of mothers to organize films for children in the library theatrette during school holidays, and although she has since gone overseas these programmes still continue at no cost to the library, other than a small expenditure on roneod publicity sheets to distribute to children, and the use of the projector and theatre. One of the film society's committee members has this year joined the committee of the Oakleigh Children's Film Club and has been an active worker with them.

In other districts screenings might be made for elderly citizens clubs. Our projectionists do sometimes project films for other groups using the library, as

well as for us. In a locality where a movie club did not already exist it is very likely that some of the members of the film society would group together to make films themselves. However, the movie club was fully-fledged when it moved from its old meeting-place to our library, and we find that the two groups get along very well together, co-operating, but with entirely different aims and ideals. Both groups receive assistance from the library, and both try to help the library, and are, I hope spreading the library's influence always further afield.

Finally, don't forget that the resources of the State Film Centre and the Film Division of the National Library are there to be used, by you, the citizen, the taxpayer. They are free, and the more we use them the more they will be developed - our politicians have at last woken up to the fact that film is a powerful means of communication. Take advantage of the opportunity these collections provide to inform, educate and incidentally entertain the members of your library through the medium of the film society.

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THE PROVISION OF BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

by

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The subject of the provision of books in foreign languages is one that could, profitably, occupy a weekend meeting of its own. Therefore, I make no apology if I should here treat only some aspects of this subject or if I treat at length only the more fundamental of the questions that could be raised.

I will attempt in this paper to examine the question of the provision of foreign-language materials in Australian public libraries against the background of immigration (which is the main argument for the provision of these materials). I will look first at some of the reasons for providing library services to migrants, then briefly at a few pointers toward what such services should consist of, and at some of the problems that they create; in discussing these matters I will refer to our experience at the Sunshine City Library in addition to drawing upon more general examples. Finally I intend to make a number of proposals which, if implemented, would in my view overcome some of the problems I will be raising.

First let me state an axiom. It is a sine qua non of public librarianship that we provide a service to the community (of which we are, after all, the paid servants): "to the community" means, implicity, to the whole community whatever its boundaries may, by some geographic or demographic accident, encompass. This concept, of providing a full service to the whole community, is the motive force of much of our professional activity: of our preoccupation with increasing the sizes of our budgets, of our endeavour to extend our resources through cooperative lending and purchasing schemes, and so on. It is given sanction, indeed it is made the object of service, in standards drawn up by professional organisations of librarians. But if we accept in full the implications of this axiom then we must always find the breadth of our aims challenged by the limitations of our resources; this challenge is the unifying theme of this paper.

A second axiom of library service is interdependent with the first. We should know our community and should attempt to tailor our services to its needs. Yet many of us, I suspect, do not really know our communities in detail. Our service is often based upon guesswork at the nature of the community and what its needs might be, combined sometimes with a pious idealism about what people ought to read. What then are some of the facts about migrants in the Australian community?

(Perhaps I should say at this point that, although I am mainly concerned in this paper with migrants as an object of library service, there are other people, such as students learning other languages, who should not be forgotten by those planning foreign-language collections.)

The first fact about migrants that I shall mention is that we know surprisingly little about them - little, that is, that will be of practical interest to us as librarians. Despite a steady trickle of published results of sociological surveys of migrants, we do not know much about their language skills and habits, and we know even less about their reading patterns and needs. I would suggest in passing that we should endeavour to discover something more about these aspects of migrant life. Although I will not claim to know how best this should be done, I suspect that librarians are among those best-placed to investigate some of these areas. Others in the library profession already have suggested the need for a general

survey of libraries' readership, and if such a survey is made, the need for information about migrants as a distinct part of the reading (and non-reading) community should be considered in its planning stage.

There are, however, a number of relevant facts that have been established, and there are a few tentative conclusions that can be drawn from surveys and available statistical information.

The Australian population of over twelve million includes more than two million born overseas. (And we should remember that Australia as a nation owes its existence to a programme of enforced migration.) Although only about 35% of this two million come from countries where English is not the language of currency, so-called "non-British" migrants and their children today account for some 20% of the total Australian population. (Figures for Victoria show that this State is roughly typical of Australia in these respects.)

Migration as a whole has since the last war accounted for more than half (about 55%) of the increase in the Australian population. As growth in the economy is seen as desirable, and as economic growth is dependent upon increase in human as well as in financial and natural resources, it is likely that immigration will continue for some time. But one trend we can reasonably expect is that relatively more migrants in th future are likely to come from continental Europe, the Middle East, and South America, and relatively less from English-speaking parts of the world.

One psychological trait of migrants of which we know is a high incentive to succeed, and one measure of this is that, compared with a ratio of 1:5 in the community at large, one in three of the entries in Who's Who in Australia was born overseas. This trait, Australia's relative prosperity and its less-clearly-defined social strata have brought Australian librarians indirectly to the position that, in the area of service to migrants, we have little (for once) to learn from the United States, as the American literature is preoccupied with a concept of the foreign-language-speaker as a deprived person. While I acknowledge that the non-English-speaker in Australia is in a sense deprived, he is not so in the sense intended most commonly by our American colleagues: he is, most commonly, not a slum-dweller, not unemployed, not illiterate. For this reason I intend deliberately to ignore such services as the South Bronx Project, directed at, amongst others, the Spanish-speaking Puerto Ricans, as these would be red herrings rather than sources of useful ideas, arising as they do out of a different social situation. (I acknowledge however that librarians in certain specific situations might be able to develop aspects of migrant services of their own from ideas rising out of these projects.)

As far as language is concerned, although we believe that many migrants become proficient in English, and that many do not, we do not know how many. One Australian survey of refugees (by Martin) has suggested that migrants of middle-class background are more likely to learn English that those of peasant or working-class origin, and also that migrants living in country areas are more likely to learn English that city-dwelling migrants; both factors are possibly traceable in part to the amount of contact these sections of the migrant community have with English-speaking Australians (although to try and establish casuality in this area is not wise). The relationship between social class and Englishability should mean that southern- and eastern-European migrants, being those most commonly from working-class or rural backgrounds, should be the least likely to learn English, and two surveys (by Martin and by Zubrzycki) have offered evidence to confirm this. It has also been established that migrants over about the age of 35 tend to be slower to learn English than those of younger age, while migrants over the age of

50 are likely never to learn English. A Canadian survey, carried out by the Toronto Public Library, the results of which probably apply in Australia, found that a migrant who has not made progress toward the learning of English in his first four years in the country is not likely to progress very far in the language in later years. In addition, the existence in Australia of a flourishing foreign-language press indicates that, whatever else may be true, a considerable number of people read, by preference, at least occasionally in a language other than English. A similar conclusion could be drawn from the proliferation of foreign-language cinemas. Two other points to which I shall return here deserve passing mention: there is a substantial number of migrants who are or who become effectively bilingual and, whatever language the parents use, many migrants have a firm wish that their children should learn the language of the home country in addition to English.

One other readily demonstrable factor is of great importance to library planners. Migrants tend to congregate in ethnic communities and although these communities do settle in country areas, such as the M.I.A. and the Latrobe Valley, they tend to concentrate in the capital cities. The importance of this to library planning, if not self-evident, can be readily demonstrated. At Sunshine we have studied statistics from the last Census giving us population figures for the statistical sub-districts. These figures showed some quite significant features of obvious importance to the future planning of branch and bookmobile services. I shall quote merely two of the most outstanding examples. Of our total population some 7½% are migrants born in Malta (in itself a high proportion compared with that for the State, or even for Melbourne); these Maltese have settled mainly in two areas: in West Sunshine, where they form 20% of the total population, and in St. Albans where they form 16% of the total. German migrants, who make up 3% of the total City population, in St. Albans form 9% of the total.

These ethnic communities show one other feature of which we should be aware: frequently their members come from one small region of the home country. One of the multitude of possible examples will suffice: in one Melbourne suburb there is a large concentration of southern Italians, most of whom come either from the small region of seven towns called Asiago in the province of Vicenza or from the Upper Agri Basin in the province of Potenza; in each case more than half of the group come from one town in the region.

Such concentrations can be advantageous to the library, by gathering migrants of one language into a small, more easily-served area, or by facilitating promotion through the efficient grapevine that exists in such close-knit communities. But they also present problems. One is the question of dialect usage, to which I shall return shortly. Another is the problem of community movement. Migrants frequently settle for a few years in one district only to move to another as increased prosperity or some other cause gives them the opportunity to do so; when such moves occur they will sometimes be seen to have been, over a period of time, movements of a whole community. For instance, some years ago there was a large movement of Yugoslavians from Broken Hill: some settled in Mildura and nearby areas, while others (mostly those originally from a small group of towns on the Adriatic coast) settled in the Brookvale and Warriewood areas north of Sydney. The problem here is that a librarian may have to face the fact, having built up a respectable foreign-language collection, of its falling into disuse. Such problems, of course, are not restricted to migrant concentrations in suburbs: examples of suburbs which are now, say, predominantly inhabited by young married couples with young children and which a few years ago had large old-age populations can readily be found.

There is no local government area in Victoria where, at present, there is not at least a handful of migrants born overseas in a non-English-speaking country. I do not claim that all these are people who do not speak English, but it should be evident that the problem of service to the foreign-language migrant in the community is one that potentially at least affects us all. I feel sure that we all agree that ideally no one person in the community should be excluded from library service by the fault of the place of his birth.

If we can ignore the problems I have raised just for a moment, what kind of service to migrants should the library offer? Many of you perhaps will want to emphasise the teaching and learning of English. This is, certainly, an area where libraries can play an effective role, and the tools exist (in limited numbers) to help them do so. There are now coming on to the market textbooks of English for those who already speak another language, some issued by British publishers and some by publishers on the Continent, some designed for use by speakers of a specific language, others (usually more advanced works) suitable for use by any reader. (Publications issued by foreign publishers do need to be treated with caution, although I have yet to see anything quite as disastrous as an Everyday English Phrase-book which is said to have contained the every-day English phrase, 'Please ask the maid to fetch my tiara'.) A collection of dictionaries, including multi- or bilingual subject dictionaries, is also of high priority. There are series of texts of standard English works designed to help the (usually more advanced) reader over problems of idiom and difficult use of language by the use of supplementary notes and glossaries. One example of these is the Heinemann Educational series, 'Modern English Language Texts', which includes such titles as H.G. Wells's The time machine and Graham Greene's Our man in Havana. In addition there are series of multilingual texts issued by a number of English publishing houses, including Harrap and Penguin Books, designed usually for English students or readers of other languages, but quite serviceable for the reverse purpose. One also occasionally comes across pictorial works with captions in several languages (most commonly these are photographic eulogies of some obscure part of the world) and these also are useful, although more difficult to obtain being usually published in Europe. If the library has a gramophone record collection, recordings in foreign languages, in addition to record aids to the learning of English, could be provided to supplement printed materials.

The first problem with material of this type is the difficulty of finding out about it in the midst of the mass of published literature on the market. It is evident that we are badly in need of lists of aids to the learning of English by migrants.

One further way in which the library can aid the migrant with the learning of English is by sponsoring, co-operating in, and publicising programmes, including language classes, directed to the assistance of those not fluent in the English language. (In view of what I have to say a little later about the concept of 'integration', it is worth noting here that there may be a point in making such classes two-way in nature: helping the Italian to learn English at the same time as helping the English to learn Italian).

But to say that this (assistance in learning the English language) is as far as service to migrants ought to go is not good enough; such an argument is, I feel, often little more than a rationalisation concealing the real reason for not extending the service which is, most frequently, the lack of adequate resources.

Pity the poor migrant who has to learn a new language, with few enough aids, and is then expected to plunge into a maze of books printed in this difficult new language. Woe betide him whose hand, in such a circumstance, alights upon

Finnegan's Wake! I suspect that even a trained Readers' Adviser would be working overtime to find enough suitable material to cope with the demand for "easy" books; and which of our libraries has taken the trouble to build up collections of books for retarded readers and others coming late to the language? It takes a long time for most people to become functionally literate in a second language, especially when that language is as difficult as is the English. I believe that we have a responsibility to provide literature, and I use the word in the broadest sense, for the migrant in the language of his birth, whether or not he is learning or has learnt any English; do not forget that there are many who never will be proficient in English, nor that there are those who are functionally bilingual: the bane of my life at the present time are two ladies who speak excellent English but who as a matter of preference read in Dutch whenever they can.

Finally, it is becoming more and more recognised in sociological circles, and among the Powers that be, that the emphasis in relating the migrant to the Australian community as a whole should be less on assimilation - 'absorbing into the system' - than on integration - 'combining into a whole'. This trend is in line with the preference of the migrant himself as expressed both in the foreign-language press and in surveys which have measured this.

Because I feel that this is a significant point for the future, I should like to quote at some length from a paper given by Dr. Jerzy Zubrzycki to the Australian Citizenship Convention in 1968.

'Fundamentally language maintenance efforts seem to me to be justifiable for two reasons. Firstly, they serve obvious national (i.e., Australia) needs, it is a fact that the demand for the less commonly available languages in Australia has become much greater lately ... (and) there has ... developed strong pressure from ... the business world whose interest is of course on developing trade relations with overseas countries. Approximately half-a-million young people in this country were raised speaking languages other than English.

'Yet I venture to suggest that a very great majority of these Australians would be tongue-tied abroad and unable to make use of the huge literature published in other languages - including, commonly, the ones they or their parents used in their childhood. This seems to me to be a waster of a natural resource particularly with relation to our rapidly expanding political and trade contacts with overseas countries.

'The second reason for encouraging foreign language preservation is to promote various group and individual interests that are not in conflict with (Australian) national interests.

'While I applaud the very appreciable expansion of Asian studies in Australian tertiary institutions I view with some concern the low priority given to European studies outside the narrowly defined field of the so-called Modern Languages. We have in our midst thousands of people who are already equipped to take up a study of language and civilisation of half a dozen European countries at university level. I emphasise that the neglect of such studies means that we are not fully utilising the talent and human resources that we have introduced through migration ...

'There should be plenty of scope in Australia to encourage that welcome diversity of service, skill, talent and culture that can be had through migration ... what Sir Richard Boyer, that great Australian of French descent described ... as the 'multilingual culture which we have never had before'.'

The migrant comes to us with the great gift that is his language, his culture and his background. Whatever we see his role in this community as being, even if we require of him that he be fluent in the English language, what a waste it is if we do not make use of, and foster, this gift he brings. Perhaps these reflections might seem a little distant to us as practicing librarians? But we will have to come to terms with ideas such as these, because they represent a way of thinking that will affect the kind of society that is being built in this country and that we may have to serve in the future.

Having, I hope, convinced you of the need, at least in principle, for foreign-language collections in public libraries, let me now remind you of some of the problems that such collections will present.

The first problem is the migrant himself. We must overcome the fact that the migrant may often be unfamiliar with the concept of a free, public, library service. Also, we may discover that many of those who do not learn English are not literate in their own language. These are basically problems of promotion and education, and I do not intend to discuss them at length here although I want to point out that they do exist. But the avenues for promotion are waiting for us to use: national groups, the churches (especially those with national affiliations, such as the Orthodox Churches), migrant hostels and other official bodies, the foreign-language press, and others, in most cases will be glad to co-operate in publicising services to migrants, especially when these services are in the migrants' own languages.

More fundamental is the problem of dialects. A substantial number of migrants - we do not know the exact number - particularly those from southern European countries, speak dialects which may be sufficiently different from the national standard language as to be distinct languages themselves. For instance, although a dialect spoken in one part of Italy can often by understood by people from some other part, it will be incomprehensible to those from a third part or to those who speak the standard language. Before the last war a particular problem existed due to this fact, because of the insistence, for political reasons, of the Italian authorities in Australia that migrants from Italy should learn the Italian language whatever dialect they might happen to speak. A large number of Italians was thus faced with a problem of dual assimilation : into the Italian and/or into the Australian community. Today, it appears that a large proportion of adult male migrants is to some extent familiar with the standard language of their country of origin, whatever regional dialect they were born into, either because of education, or their experience in military training or employment. But unfortunately the female migrant coming from a dialect district is more often fluent in only the dialect; "unfortunately", because it is the language of the mother that determines the language spoken in the home, and it is the woman who most often has the time to read. As it is the southern-European migrant (who is the most likely to speak dialect) who is the least likely to learn and speak English, the library will often find that there is just no answer to this problem; there are often no books printed in dialect.

This is not to mention the basic problem of language in communication between the librarian and the foreign-language-speaking user. How can we communicate effectively with our public, promote the library to them, find out about their needs, advise them in their reading, if we have no language in common with them? Indeed, how can we select, acquire, and catalogue books printed in a language that we cannot read? We at Sunshine are probably typical in that, although we have on our staff two library assistants who are fluent in respectively Italian and Polish,

we have them more by good luck than good management, despite a policy of preferring those with language skills when making staff appointments.

There are, in fact, some selection aids in English available for foreign-language publications, current and retrospective, among the best of the current variety being Italian books and periodicals, a reviewing journal issued bi-monthly by an Italian publisher in English. But such publications are few in number, cover a limited number of languages, and in most cases are highly selective. Some overseas booksellers will provide selective lists of recent publications, and the larger ones will select for you, contracting to supply a certain value of books in a given subject each year (needless to say, such standing order arrangements are generally only made with customers wishing to spend substantial amounts of money). The best of the overseas booksellers will even correspond with you in English, and some of them even write English that can be comprehended. But there is always a large element of chance in trying to buy in such ways alone, and a high probability that collections built solely on such a basis will be heavily biased. So far as suitable cataloguing aids are concerned, there are none that I know of, other than the prohibitively-priced National Union Catalog, which contains entries for foreign-language books acquired under the Farmington Plan.

All other problems pale beside that of the library budget. We all I suspect claim, probably justifiably, that we lack even the resources necessary to develop adequately services to our English-speaking community. To establish a foreign-language collection means establishing not one collection, but anything up to a dozen (or more) small collections : one in Italian, one in German, one in Greek, and so on. By spreading already limited resources over a large number of small collections we will almost certainly be building up a large number of inadequate collections that may not even meet the basic needs of the intended community of users, and that will be in danger of being 'read out' and soon forgotten. Would it not be wiser to concentrate our resources in providing one good, albeit English-language, collection? I would question what any of us means by an 'adequate' collection in such a context, but certainly there is a real problem in permitting special collections (and this does not refer merely to foreign-language collections) to remain too small.

Let me exemplify some of these assertions by reference to our experience at Sunshine. This is an area that has experienced rapid population growth since the war and which, due to low-cost housing, has attracted a large number of migrants. Over 40% of the population were born overseas; more than half of these - 25% of the total population - were born in a non-English-speaking country. No doubt some will now be proficient in English, although many of these will still prefer to read in their original language. And we must remember that Australian-born children of migrants will add to the real number of people of non-English stock in the district. Now if we were to choose to spend something approaching this proportion of our book budget on books in foreign languages (the actual proportion is far short of that) we might be on the way to providing a respectable collection of books in the languages most commonly spoken in the community; say, Italian, Polish and German (and Maltese, if there were ever any books printed in Maltese). But we would still be unable to provide more than a token handful of books in the languages less common in the community: such as Turkish, Spanish, Hungarian, and so on.

In fact our collection of foreign-language books at present numbers about 1500 volumes, that is, about two percent of the total bookstock. But when you consider that this seemingly respectable figure is spread over some dozen languages a simple mathematical operation considerably reduces its respectability, although

we do have quite good collections of books in Italian and German and slightly smaller collections in French and Polish. Because of the small volume of acquisitions we buy from local suppliers, and this effectively reduces still further our financial resources as local booksellers - whose best terms are published price converted - cannot match the excellent terms available from those overseas, where, at worst, published price is charged and many dealers offer discounts of between 10% and 33 1/3% (depending on type of material). This is not to mention the limitation of the type of publication local booksellers will carry in stock, nor does it take account of their relative inefficiency in supplying requested titles not in their regular stock; the overseas booksellers are often able to supply a higher proportion of special orders, and to supply them more quickly, than their Australian competitors. On the credit side, we have found consulates to be friendly, and even sometimes generous.

To what extent we are typical of those Australian public libraries which do provide a foreign-language service I am not able to say. By and large, more is known about the provision of other-language services in other countries than is known about them in Australia. A further suggestion I would make in passing is that there should be a survey of all Australian public libraries to establish the nature and extent of such services in this country and the attitudes of Australian librarians to them. Only with the results of such a survey will we have a concrete basis on which to construct programmes to help develop resources in this area.

At least one speaker at meetings such as this has to come forward with grandiose programmes for co-operation, invariably of course with someone else to do all the hard work. I do not intend to let this meeting be an exception.

For two reasons, the area of foreign-language collecting is a most suitable one for demonstrating the virtues of library co-operation. First, there is a cost problem and a number of other problems associated with the establishment and maintenance of such collections which put their effective operation beyond the range of even a large public library and - dare I say it? - beyond the range of even a regional unit. Second, this is a small enough area to provide an exemplary pilot project for a number of other schemes that have been the subject of some discussion. I make my proposals on two levels: a long-term scheme, that might take a couple of years to put into effective operation, and an immediate programme, which could be later incorporated into the long-term scheme if that ever came to fruition, or that could continue to serve a useful function even if the long-term scheme never is put into operation.

On the long-term level, I propose that there should be established a central authority to buy, catalogue and service collections of foreign-language books for municipal libraries. Such an authority would probably of necessity be constructed at the State level, in Victoria probably under the auspices of the Library Services Division. Whether the form of a library's contribution to the cost of the scheme would be financial, or in staff-time or some other variable of payment-in-kind I will not attempt to suggest; certainly contribution would be voluntary, and probably related in some way to the size of the library and to the size of the dependent foreign-language community.

The scope of such a service would, as I envisage it, cover the whole range of library activities. It would select, or at very least, assist in the selection of, foreign language material. It would buy from overseas booksellers at the most economical rates and terms. It would in all probability buy quantities of material upon a standing order basis, but would be in a position to ensure an overall balance of collecting between various types of material throughout the State. In

cataloguing, and other activities, where the language skills of its own staff were not adequate, it would have access to the skills of staffs of co-operating libraries, and also would have contact with consulate staffs and others who are able to assist with language difficulties. It would readily be able to plot migrant concentrations and community movements and to adjust the pattern of service accordingly. It would supervise stock exchange programmes (even if it is necessary that these be disguised behind the polite fiction of "loans"), and would act as a clearing-house for inter-library lending. It might also serve as a centre for the dissemination of information, would probably compile occasional bibliographies, and issue other material for the information and use of participating libraries.

Now, in toto, such a scheme would be strong stuff for librarians who by inclination have reservations about anything that is likely to encroach upon their autonomy. Therefore I would emphasise that this proposal only covers a relatively small area of library operations, and that area one which no library on its own can hope to cope effectively with; furthermore that such a scheme would overcome many of the problems of foreign language service that I alluded to earlier. I do not pretend to have produced a blueprint; rather I have given pointers in the direction which we will certainly have to follow.

For reasons I have just mentioned, and because the need for some kind of co-operation exists today, rather than just a few years hence, I make the following proposals, which can be put into effect immediately. These aim to ease some of the problems experienced at present, and can be conducted within the framework of existing structures although they could be incorporated into a more comprehensive scheme if that should ever come to fruition.

First, to extend the range of material in any one language available to a library user, I suggest the compilation and maintenance of a union catalogue of library materials in modern languages other than English. In addition to its main purpose, of facilitating inter-library lending activities, such a catalogue could be of some use in acquisition work, both in the selection and non-selection of material and in searching for bibliographical information, and could also serve as an imperfect but possibly quite useful supplementary cataloguing tool. Such a union catalogue could for the time being be kept on cards at one of the co-operating libraries, perhaps with duplicated lists in given languages being issued from time to time.

Second, I suggest the compilation of a list of staff with special language skills in municipal libraries. With the present rate of migration of library staffs this will need constant attention to keep it up-to-date, but I can see such a record being of day-to-day use to co-operating libraries, at least in assisting with the cataloguing of materials in difficult languages, and in dealing with occasional correspondence. Such a list could be held in conjunction with the above union catalogue. This record would be, in effect, a first step towards co-operative cataloguing, although in the informal way in which this particular essay in co-operation would function, it does not yet deserve that title.

I would also suggest that we examine the possibility of extending co-operative acquisition into the area of foreign-language material. Whether this could operate within the scope of existing subject specialisation schemes I very much doubt. But schemes operating in the London metropolitan area and in the East Midlands Regional Library System, both of which cover the acquisition of foreign language fiction, might be guides. It could well be that our resources are at present too small even to enable us to effect such a scheme as this; but if some kind of central authority for the provison of foreign-language materials is not to be set up, then we will ultimately have to construct some kind of co-operative acquisition scheme if we

are ever to be able to provide a range of material in other languages appropriate to the needs of the State.

Similarly, if the central authority is not adopted in the form I propose, consideration will have to be given to some kind of formal co-operative, or centralized, cataloguing scheme, and to some form of stock exchange.

However we choose to co-operate in this area of collecting, we will have to find some way of co-operation. We have an obligation to see that a large minority in our community is not left without library service, yet as individual libraries we all are incapable of providing a service adequate to meet the needs of this minority: incapable because we all lack the financial and linguistic resources necessary.

I was going to conclude with a very meaningful, but rather trite-and-nasty quotation from an American article. But instead let me recount to you a recurring incident from my own experience - and one that will be familiar to many of you. On several occasions I have seen a family come into the library - two or three children and their father (a fact that is uncommon enough in a library where children usually come on their own). And the children always leave with beams on their faces and books under their arms. But their father goes out through the library doors empty-handed: he has not even bothered to look for a book to read. He speaks Maltese. The library has no Maltese books. Whatever may be the facts of life, I have a conscience.

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WISE SAWS AND MODERN INSTANCES: LIBRARIES AND CONTINUING LEARNING

by

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The title sets forward a complementary pair: wise saws and modern instances, old sayings and their application today. My old sayings concern the relationship of Libraries and adult education today.

Let us have a quick look at how they have been intertwined in their history. In 1731 in America the Library Company of Philadelphia was founded by Benjamin Franklin and his friends specifically to meet their own needs for learning. The thousand circulating libraries that were established in the United Kingdom between 1735 and 1800 were less germane to our point, but the subscription libraries began in 1741 among the miners of Leadhills in Lanarkshire, again for their education. By 1800 the reading of library books was an established practice; and much of the reading, though not all, was for 'improvement'.

If some men and women wanted to improve themselves, there were, throughout the nineteenth century, those who were glad to help. Philanthropy was widespread. Perhaps the most important institution of philanthropy was the schools of arts, or literary or mechanics' institute; set up, so it turned out, to equip the early factory workers with an educational background to their work. By 1821 the movement was under way, and by the middle of the century there were over 600 institutes in the United Kingdom. Their methods of education were standard, and typically included a reference library and reading room and a lending library was common. The institute movement bequeathed us public libraries, adult education, technical schooling, and the English Libraries Act of 1850 was one of the major reasons of the decline of the institutes.

With 1850 let me switch to Australia. In Australia institutes were established from 1827 (Hobart). Sydney's School of Arts dates from 1833, and Melbourne's - now the Athenaeum - from 1839. By 1870 Victoria had 100 institutes, and 400 by the Depression of the early 1890's. As in England they had libraries of reference and circulation. The catalogues of the tiny Wedderburn institute still exist, and the kind of books stocked in that mining town were educational and demanding reading. The Melbourne Public Library opened in 1853, and in 1862 the Victorian Government began subsidising the libraries of the institutes. From then until 1900 Victoria had a better local library service than in the first half of this century.

In 1890 in Victoria a new adult education movement took over from the institutes: University Extension, another importation from England. The same kind of philanthropy lay behind it, broadened now by the gospel of the Christian Socialists and their Working Mens' College. The chairman of the University Extension Board in Melbourne was Edward Ellis Morris, former headmaster of Melbourne Grammar, Professor of English, French and German Literature and Languages, and guiding light of the Shakespeare Societies and the Australasian Home Reading Union. And again the Extension Board set about collecting a library that would supplement the lecturing they gave.

Amid the Extension movement arose the Workers' Educational Association. The Melbourne W.E.A. was formed in 1914, and from 1915 was working with the Extension Board. Their aim was the education of working men by the university in long and demanding courses. Again, one of the first moves of its head, Professor Harrison Moore, was to order a library of books to help the work of the classes.

We arrive at the days of living memory with the gifts of the Carnegie Corporation. Between the Depression and the Second World War they pumped considerable sums of money into adult education libraries, and there are still books on the Council of Adult Education's shelves which contain Carnegie stickers.

The Director of Adult Education in Victoria today is Colin Badger. All his life he has preached the interdependence of books and learning. He was an active member of the committee whose 1944 repor paved the way for the Free Library Service Act of 1947: he has consistently helped municipalities take up the provision of public libraries, and he was the driving force behind the combined conference of librarians and adult educators in Canberra a few years ago.

So much for the past. What is happening now? From what we have already heard in this conference, I am sure you will agree that the situation is puzzling. There are tough problems of understanding and sorting out concepts - culture, education, learning; great depths of ignorance about what is happening in our society; and ignorance about the learning processes of different age groups, abilities, and social-class members. Because of this triple barrier, we cannot agree on what institutions we want.

And yet there is ferment all round us. The churches, alleged bastions of conservatism and all that is dowdy, are putting on programmes of adult education undreamt of ten years ago. Agricultural extension departments are concerning themselves with such untraditional problems as ways of stopping farmers being farmers at all. And you librarians have obviously moved on from the stage at which you were guardians of heaps of books. Men and women from many influential groups in the community are beginning to feel some new movement of the human spirit, and it is concerned with adults coming to grips with new problems in their living, in their attitudes and skills, and in their dreams of who they might become.

The education of adults has been a function of a public library for a century. But what does it mean to utter those platitudinous words? There seems to be a two-way split on that question. Following my mentor here - Professor Cyril House of Chicago - I shall name th two attitudes simply Theory P and Theory Q.

Theory P says give'em what they want: that the public library should be a source of communications material responsive to all of the socially acceptable desires of the people it serves ... Its service should be made available as fully, imaginitively, and attractively as possible ... so that those who would like to use its services will know that they are available.

Theory Q holds all that, plus the belief that the public library should take the initiative to inform, to guide, and to educate the people of the community ... to have values concerning the nature of man and his society which influence consciously or unconsciously, the nature and the operations of the library.

At first glance, it looks as though the second attitude adds only one item to the first - "to have values" But in discussions of policy that item arouses such passions that the basic agreements of the two Theories is often lost sight of. Sometimes the opponents of 'values' try to suggest that the innovators want a strange new kind of institution never before dreamt of by man. That is not true. Believers in Theory Q still want to remain responsive to the expressed will of

their people, but they claim the right, like any other educator, to contribute to the goals of the common venture of reader-librarian.

Marjorie Fiske's investigation - Book selection and censorship Berkeley Press 1959 - indicates that most librarians are holders of Theory P. She found that 55% of her sample of public librarians were demand-oriented, and only 8% value-oriented. The interesting group is the remaining 37%. They thought of themselves as demand-oriented, but it became obvious, once they were pushed, that they were in fact covertly value-oriented, but were trying very hard to keep the two orientations in some sort of balance. You will probably agree that these findings apply pretty accurately to those of us here. Speaker and questioner, one after the other, have said we cannot just give people what they ask for, and shrug our shoulders. We believe in books; in reading; in free enquiry and the pursuit of truth; in the dignity and worth of the individual human being. And this problem is every bit as real at adult education conferences, where we agonize over classes on "Flower Arrangement" and "Posture and Poise" as against "The Australian Economy Today" and "Whither Communist China?"

Let me recapitulate. Libraries and adult education (or adult education and libraries) have been inter-related for a couple of centuries. And, regretfully, we cannot - we in libraries and adult educations - give our student-customers simply what they want.

What, then, do I suggest; what are my 'modern instances'? I recommend that you public librarians consider viewing yourselves, quite unambiguously in the same way that adult educators are being urged to see themselves, as managers of learning situations; you're in the learning game, the job of suggesting, encouraging, informing, guiding. And if I suggest only one tool for you to keep on your shelves, it is J. Roby Kidd's handbook How adults learn (Association Press, New York, 1959) And here are five specific suggestions.

1. *Helping self-directed learners* *An American survey of 1965 found that nearly nine million Americans were engaged in self-education. A Canadian survey found that nearly all college graduates interviewed had spent more than eight hours in self-directed learning; but the important and new fact about them was that they all sought some sort of help - often from librarians - which was often frustrated.*

2. *Keeping your young people* *Miss Pavey's paper covered this.*

3. *Knowing your area* *After a knowledge of individual psychology, and group psychology, our next basic skill should be in sociology (I have my tongue in my cheek). An American survey showed that, in an area where the local businessmen knew about a handful of clubs in their suburb, there were in fact 400.*

4. *Remedial reading* *A big minority of early school leavers can barely read. Victorian survey (A.C.E.R.) shows (I am quoting from memory) that half the first-formers in Technical Schools and a quarter in High Schools can read at only the fourth grade level. And no institution is doing anything much about it. Public Libraries might well make a breakthrough.*

5. *Back other educators* *There are probably other agencies in your area who are also managers of learning situations - the schools running evening classes, commercial institutions who have training officers, C.A.E. classes, and so on. You can give such people the benefit of your experience for the sake of those who are learning. You're all in the learning game.*

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND THE COUNCIL

by

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I was originally asked to present this paper on, I think, Extension Activities. On the circular for this Conference I note it refers to 'Community and the Council' and I suppose they are all the same thing.

However, what I am attempting to demonstrate is that a community can be planned to allow for the implanting on an old area of some of the basic concepts of modern planning and at the same time create a new community. The City of Oakleigh is unusual in that two communities exist within the one city and we are dealing with both the old community at Oakleigh and the new at Clayton; here I am attempting to show several things: what has happened in the process of making the library part of the centre of community activities in each area; the local political problems which are involved and their effect upon the conscious; and, the unconscious planning of the old area and the new.

To begin I want to give a fairly broad picture of Oakleigh and to talk about its political problems. It has, as probably quite a lot of people know, two libraries, it spends $1.50 per head of population on its library services, quite apart from the government subsidy. There are 65,000 books in the stock to serve the 57,500 population. Mr. Houghton informs me that the amount we spend is well above the average Australian level and I understand that a library service of this size in a community the size of Oakleigh is generally regarded as good.

I want to detail this a little bit more and say that it's not only the library services that are good and it's not only the question of the development of libraries, but rather that in Oakleigh there is a very advanced social services attitude generally and advanced social service facilities. This is particularly so in the requirements of care for the aged where we provide domicilary care, meals on wheels, home for the aged; have planned the development of second stage geriatric care and where some planning towards full nursing care of the aged has been carried out. This is despite the fact that we are not an aged community.

In addition there are two elderly citizens clubs, 8 council kindergartens, and every school crossing in the City is manned by a Council paid supervisor. There is a pavilion on every reserve, and 174 acres of playing fields; we have an athletic track of world standard and two Olympic swimming pools as well as a 25 metre indoor heated pool and a diving pool, once again of Olympic standards. Projects being planned at the moment are squash courts at two centres; two gymnasiums; a creche for children of working mothers; and a family planning clinic. There are also probably the two worst Civic buildings in Melbourne - The Town Hall and the Council Chambers. This is perhaps not incidental to what's been happening generally, because the Town Hall has often been the subject of a political battle and it tends to be one of those status symbols - people determine their political attitudes by supporting it or not, and of course we have a very antiquated Council Chambers where the councillors sit and argue for many hours in the most uncomfortable conditions. And all this I believe, is quite excellent, because despite the fact that we haven't the large Town Hall that others around us have - the Taj Mahal type of buildings - we have these other facilities.

I refer to these other developments because I think it's important that no-one gets the impression that Oakleigh has developed its library facilities and nothing much else.

We have actually two particular communities in the City of Oakleigh. In an area of 11.4 sq. miles which is quite small by comparison with municipalities generally, there are two distinct centres, Oakleigh itself and Clayton. I draw your attention to the map showing Oakleigh and Clayton and the positions of Oakleigh and Clayton Libraries, the general library catchment area is something like a radius of 1½ miles from the library. I think that in trying to give a picture of this community and in trying to give a picture of what has happened in the development of library facilities it is necessary to have a look at the communities in some depth and of course I cannot do this in a brief paper of this sort. However, if we deal firstly with Oakleigh itself.

This is an old community which was actually settled in 1845 when Allen's Creek Run in Glen Iris came right up Scotchman's Creek. It was subdivided fairly soon and the Scotchman's Creek township and Oakleigh came into being. We don't know the origin of the name which was first used by order of the executive council in 1855. It developed into a railway town - a terminus for the train from Sale; this service terminated at Oakleigh and didn't actually go to Melbourne. Later the link joined up and it was also linked with Brighton. There has been some slight geographic shift in the location of the Oakleigh community by the movement of the main centre from the Scotchman's Creek to the area around the railway line, an area which has been the central part of Oakleigh since the 1880's. Most of the streets in that part are narrow - they now carry one way traffic but it's fairly well developed shopping centre, with quite a high volume of trade. It had a problem when the Chadstone shopping centre was implanted in the area - not in the City of Oakleigh but in the City of Malvern, a distance of about 3/4 mile from the Oakleigh shopping centre; this of course meant a fairly difficult period for the local traders. However, this doesn't seem to have caused any long term problems to Oakleigh - maybe because of the strong local identity, the typically strong local feeling in an old community of that sort and I suppose the growth of the more affluent society over the past few years has enabled it to maintain itself and develop fairly rapidly. The Council's action in developing community facilities around the shopping centre has undoubtedly helped.

The community itself in Oakleigh is basically fairly staid and fairly conservative. Most of the population would be artisans, lower middle-class including shopkeepers, and would generally be people who had a long identity with the City of Oakleigh in family tradition. These citizens mostly voted Labor and the representative there was from the Labor Party for many many years. Usually it was someone who met the people on Friday night or Saturday morning at shopping centes and provided he never rocked the boat and provided he wasn't too much of a radical he seemed to be returned.

There was a Mr. Squire Reid who held the seat for many years and he had become a feature of the Oakleigh scene where he habitually met the electors on a Friday night shopping. When he retired it was in a movement against Bank Nationalisation by Mr. Lechte a Liberal; but he lost his seat when he actually rocked the boat and voted with the Holway liberals. The Labor party held it from then on until six years ago when the Liberals got in again after a party split.

During all this time Oakleigh remained a community which was very much inward looking and one which was basically fairly staid and fairly conservative. The Councillors never changed very often. Council elections were rare and then they

were held mostly because someone retired but on a few occasions the sitting councillor had offended the local establishment - usually because he was divorced or he'd played up with someone's wife; and these are the sort of factors which influenced politics in Oakleigh at the time.

Nothing happened in terms of developing community services, except the building of a swimming pool, a development which was very much to the credit of the member of parliament at that time, Mr. Doube. Councillors, there were nine of them, met regularly on the first and third Monday. They had their Committee meetings on the second Monday and on the 5th Monday if there were five Monday's in the month but the Tuesday following the 4th Monday if there were not. The reason for this was that all the Councillors were members of the local Masonic Lodge which met on the 4th Monday. It was fairly freely said that decisions were always taken on the fourth Monday. Generally Labor members were permitted in the Council only if they behaved as if they weren't Labor men. Catholics were politely frozen out and it was a staid sort of community that didn't really get very far in terms of modern society. There had been a municipal abbatoirs functioning - it was owned by the municipality, but hadn't made any profits for the fifteen years prior to 1960.

The other community is Clayton. Clayton had been very much a backwater since the days when Mr. Clayton himself built his home at the corner of Centre Road and Clayton Road. It was largely a market garden community with a fair sprinkling of community derelicts who lived a rather hillbilly sort of existence, and at the same time it was a Presbyterian dominated, peasant type community which remained dormant until the 1950's.

As a direct result of the housing shortage a lot of the land had been subdivided in the 1920's and was being sold cheaply. These blocks started to blossom with two room bungalows and a community developed which was housed in bungalows, shacks and partly built houses.

The local officialdom made some efforts to stop this but the community reacted aggressively and the ramshackle development continued. A very large number of people built their own homes, or they partly constructed homes or they finished jobs that builders took to lock up stage and the like. The services in the community were appalling. There were neither drains nor roads and I recall a meeting of the local Progress Association called to talk about drains and the local hall was filled to overflowing. People lived there because they could buy land for about $50 and this was generally the only sort of place they could afford to live. I doubt very much if those people who moved into the area at that time went there because they wanted to live in Clayton. People were fairly aggressive, aware of their political rights and one of the most militant local organisations was the R.S.L. They had put up candidates for Council and on one occasion the R.S.L. President and a deputation went to the local Mulgrave Council and said, when they couldn't get what they wanted, 'We'll oppose the bloody lot!' and 'We'll run a revolution'. They have mellowed a bit since then!

Then there was the 'borough of Clayton Movement', which was a move to get separate municipal identity for Clayton, instead of having the district divided between three municipalties. Clayton wanted self government and a poll of ratepayers overwhelmingly supported this proposal. But the minister for Local Government held an enquiry and determined that the rather brash and bustling Clayton should be added to the staid and small City of Oakleigh, a community which, at that time, had insufficient rate revenue. Probably the minister was very correct in creating the larger City of Oakleigh. There was of course the instant clash of interests - Clayton demanded that roads and drains be constructed first and this

meant priority of loan funds. Oakleigh wanted her Municipal offices and a Town Hall. Clayton had three representatives, then one year later it was increased to six, who were in fact all members of the Labor party; and since that time the politics of Oakleigh have changed a great deal. Dealing a little bit more with Clayton some statistical information is available from a research group who used random sampling techniques and who did an analysis of a portion of Clayton in 1969.

They showed the occupations of Clayton residents as unskilled 4%, semi-skilled 14%; skilled trades 45%; small business or clerical 18%; medium business 7%. The age group showed: under 25, 3%; 25-34, 20%; 35-44, 39%; 45-54, 20%; over 54, 11%. The Urban research Unit from Melbourne University has been doing some research on Oakleigh and they've suggested that there hasn't been a very large shift of population out of the municipality. The 1961 census figures show that the population who were under 40 for the City of Oakleigh is higher than the percentage for Melbourne and of course we can see from this that the majority of these under 40's in fact were in Clayton.

Of some interest is the point that was made yesterday about working class and middle-class types of community, and how you assessed them and how you judge what is a working class and what is a middle class: the Jones survey from Canberra on status symbols, which you probably all remember came out about a year ago, placed Clayton two points down the scale lower than Oakleigh. The same survey referring to the income groups found that the average income of heads of householders of Clayton was actually lower than the average for Victoria. The Clayton religious affiliations showed 69% as Protestant and 31% as Catholics. Of countries of birth Australians are 67%; United Kingdom 9%; others 23.5% which of course is a fairly high figure of migrants for the area.

This examination of the community in a microcosmic way is important because if you try to assess the reason for the development of better than average library services then you ought to be looking fairly closely at the politics of the community which are quite vital to this understanding. I'm rather of the view that politics is the same whether it is the politics of the local club or the politics of the United Nations - the same sort of fundamentals are applying and the same sort of intensity actually exists.

I have made the point that I feel that the library facilities in the City of Oakleigh are better than most and I have brought here some pictures of our existing facilities. Those on the right are actually photographs taken of the Oakleigh Library; first the outside, then the inside, students room with language laboratories opening off it, and the Auditorium where films are screened. The Oakleigh Library cost $173,000; it has a floor area of 10,000 sq. ft. and bookshelf capacity for 28,000 volumes. It was completed in November 1966. The Clayton Library on the other hand cost $92,000 and is of course a branch library with a shelf capacity of 9,000 volumes and while we haven't photographs I have this sketch of the library and I want to show you a couple of slides. What I am suggesting here is that these are two different types of libraries. As far as library use is concerned we have a turnover of books of something like 7,500 per week and they're almost equally divided between the two, with the numbers at Clayton being slightly less than those at Oakleigh. So then, at the Oakleigh Library we have a bookshelf capacity of about three times that at Clayton, but at Clayton in addition to the library we have an auditorium (capacity 200 with well-equipped stage for amateur productions), a foyer set up as an art gallery and a mother's room at the rear.

Those of us who wanted to see this built knew perfectly well that we would have no chance whatsoever of getting the Council to suddenly put such a complex in our community. We knew that the direct approach would not be the way of doing it.

Instead a start was made when the Oakleigh Library was planned: we all completely supported the project. The older and more reactionary councillors at Oakleigh were a bit against even the Oakleigh Library, and they still complain bitterly about the fact that we put a lift in to carry the books upstairs. We had started out with library service in 1962 in a prefabricated building which had been the engineers office. The Clayton group's first approach in the Council was to say 'Let's move that temporary building to Clayton when we have completed the Oakleigh building' - and this was accepted. We said that we wanted to put the building on a Council site; then we got allocation of funds towards a comfort station in the area. The idea was to place the 'project' in the middle of Clayton's very large car parking area and obviously our first problem was to quell the resentment of the local traders. The Chamber of Commerce was against taking away some of the holy of holies - the car space. However this Chamber of Commerce has never been much of a political force to worry about due to their preoccupation with their shops and their cars, and in fact the members take no part in community activity at all. Our feeling was that this complex should be part of the community and it should be right in the centre of the trading community - and that's where we put it! We wanted it close to the swimming pool which is also in the area, and the one parking area serves the Library, the Auditorium, the Art Gallery, the Swimming Pool and of course the shopping centre; then on Saturday afternoons it is used for basket-ball.

Our idea was always to create a centre and eventually we got rid of the second-hand building when fortuitously the local girl guides wanted a headquarters and Council decided to give the old library to them and move it free of charge. Next came the suggestion 'Let's make the library and the comfort station one building,' then 'As there is a lecture hall at the Oakleigh Library why not consider one here?'. Now at Oakleigh the hall seats 80 people and is ideal for small functions however we have in Clayton a very active Theatre Group and we wanted to give them a home so it was agreed to let us have a small Auditorium with a seating capacity of 150. Somehow this was increased to 200. It proved politically wise to incorporate a mother's room into the comfort station and as a result of clever design this doubles as the dressing room for the theatre by night.

The Theatre is regarded by people who have seen it as probably as good a small auditorium as exists anywhere in the metropolitan area. It seats 200 is wired for sound, is fully carpeted and is generally a very classy type of small theatre which functions as an adjunct to the Library and is under the control of Library staff. When we were doing the final planning in fact after the building was under way, the Council agreed to increase the size of the foyer and to make it into an Art Gallery. There is a double entrance to this foyer and on the opposite side to the car park we have an arcade with a broad thoroughfare which is just being built on Council land and now we have the people coming from the main shopping centre to the car parks walking through the gallery, with the auditorium on their left and the library on their right. This then gives access from the main shopping centre to the swimming-pool as well as to the centre of other community services. We think it has worked very well, mainly because people are almost unloaded into the library complex when they get out of their cars on the parking area, and we are finding generally that people are walking through the foyer and getting to know the facilities that are available.

The architect, Mr. Ivan Anderson has a feeling for the local communitie's problems and he is concerned to see that buildings work. He put the proposition on a sketch plan and Council grabbed the idea and it developed from that. There's now a move to have another small theatre at Oakleigh. This is because it is seen that

such a building works very well in the whole of the context of the area it's actually serving. One of the rather fortunate features of the Oakleigh Library Services has been the fact that we have had a Librarian and a Library staff who have been keen on extension activities. I have noted that back in 1962 when we were first opening a temporary library, the Librarian, Mr. Houghton included in his report the need for extension activities. This was very soon after his appointment and in fact I well remember when he was appointed he laid some stress on the question of extension activities and the Council has never at any time rejected a motion that the Library should be involved in this sort of project.

As Mrs. Howard pointed out to you last night the lecture room at Oakleigh is free for cultural or educational purposes - I don't think anyone has been charged yet. The same thing applies to the auditorium. Now we don't care whether people are charging for admission, we know the function of the Auditorium is to provide this service to all those groups of people and they, if they're making profits, are making them for their organisation which is to the community's good.

The Clayton Theatre Group is a very active body and has been established for some years. It has built up quite substantial assets and of course gets the free use of the Auditorium. The local Arts Council actually has raised funds for the provision of lighting for the stage and the Theatre Group provided the curtains. We have felt that this sort of extension activity is highly desirable in our community. I mentioned earlier about the migrants in the city - we have a lot of Greeks in the Clayton area and the Oakleigh area, and we allow them to use this Auditorium free of charge for teaching the children the culture of their fathers. They're a very rowdy lot and the library staff get a bit incensed occasionally but never-the-less they go there, their parents go there and they tend to see other parts of the Library functioning.

When the centre was opened we had receptions to local school children, Chamber of Commerce people, local manufacturers and representative groups from school councils and mother's clubs etc., quite a large number of people attended some sort of reception where red or white wine was served (not to the children) and there was an introduction to all the library staff, who attended and this has been the feeling we have been trying to generate: a personal relationship between staff and public, an appreciation by the library staff that the community is what they are working with.

The Clayton Arts Council was established shortly after the opening of the library and a copy of the constitution is appended. The Librarian is a member of the Arts Council and we have representatives from Monash University, and Oakleigh Council. The Arts Council itself is a body which co-ordinates arts activities. It works with the librarian as an extension activity and has organised the formation of the Junior Theatre Group, the Choral Society and the Painting Group - artists meet in the foyer and paint, they are more or less honour bound not to make any mess and so far no problems; they are also responsible for continually changing exhibitions of paintings in the foyer.

We have had an Arts Festival, one of the most successful nights of which was local Greeks, Cretans and Poles all putting on National Dancing, once again, of course, no charge was made for the use of the Auditorium and profits offset the cost of the festival. Some councillors, every now and then, have a bit of a thing about this and they start saying somebody's making a lot of money and we ought to be charging or something of that sort and this is a recurring problem. Right from the beginning there have been extension activities and they were superimposed on the Library Services in spite of a very hostile type of council in which we have 15 councillors and where Council meetings sometimes go on till 1 a.m.

On a couple of occasions Councillors have come to fisticuffs - on one occasion the Mayor rushed down with chains dangling and was going to punch an opposing Councillor! It is regarded in the community generally as a very wild type of council, but despite this it is the same Council which has created all of the things that I've mentioned and my point is that it is a bad thing if you have a complacent council where you don't have this sort of situation, but if you do have conflict the only harm done is to the Councillors themselves - it is their sleep they lose but the conflict actually helps the community generally. The antagonisms have been partly Oakleigh versus Clayton - partly with Labor versus Conservative. In the election last August there were sixteen condidates for five vacancies: there's always an election in every ward, and there's usually a very furious campaign which centres around activities of the Council - things like whether there should be a better cataloguing system at the Library and of course whether there should be a Town Hall or whether someone has failed in his duties. This is the way the community has been functioning for the past ten years. It isn' of course, entirely a question of Labor and non Labor, as the most conservative may be on the Labor Party aide and some of the most radical are 'Liberals'. The elections and the declaration of the poll at Oakleigh are usually something that must be seen to be believed - maybe at 12 o'clock at night there are two or three hundred people milling around, there have been a couple of brawls and when the speeches are made at the dais you can very rarely hear them; but despite all this there is generally a very healthy regard for the rights of the people and of the community.

Some of the other points that I particularly want to bring out relate to the functioning generally of the community, and extension activities. The Council's attitude is, that these facilities ought to be free to the community. We believe that the attitude of the Federation of Film Societies to which Mrs. Howard referre is very wrong indeed when it says that local groups should not be profit making.

When you say profit making you are not supposing that they're making ordinary trade profits, but rather that if a group or organisation makes a profit then its constitution surely covers the question of the profits being used for the general well-being of the society, and I think that if you have, as the Film Society has, a position where it costs $4.00 to join that you automatically inhibit the membership of a Society of this sort. Incidentally, we have in Clayton, a lot of Library oriented activity at the local schools: the Westall High School produced a film recently called 'No love for Luigi' - a problem of migrant assimilation and it won an award in one of the overseas festivals; it was shown in Clayton in our Auditorium and the same school has, on occasions mounted Art Shows.

I think we could probably leave this and move on to another matter, that I think I touched on a few moments ago: the fact that the abbatoirs made no profit until 1960. I don't know how accidental it is but profits were made immediately the two areas were integrated. Oakleigh has of course been in a fortunate position in being able to create a sophisticated community service and one of the prime factors in assisting has been, of course, that same Oakleigh abbatoirs which, as I pointed out, started making profits in 1960 when Clayton came into the City of Oakleigh. The profits of that undertaking have been to the order of something over $2 million for a period of 11 years. That of course is not enough to provide all the facilities that have been provided and not only is it not enough for that but it doesn't cover the operating costs. The rates at Oakleigh are not high, they're actually a bit lower than others because in a political situation such as ours you can't afford to have your rates high (or the ruling group can't afford to). We haven't financed everything from our abbatoirs profits but is has been of significant assistance to us.

Clayton has been studied to some extent by Town Planning groups and they are quite impressed by the facilities that exist in the centre of the community, facilities such as I referred to earlier, which help to make the trading community a part of the sporting and cultural nucleus.

I would like to make a couple of points apropos of this and state that I feel a danger faces professional librarians (and I'm talking entirely as someone who's involved in the murky politics of local government). You must not get removed from the operations and functions of local government, you must be aware of how councillors make decisions and what makes them act in certain ways. If you put a proposition to Councillors and you phrase it in the language I've heard here the last couple of days you'll tend to make them think 'I don't quite understand that'. They won't say anything, but when it comes to the date of the annual estimates and provision of additional services it'll be thumbs down. I think you've got to get to their level and you've got to understand that Councillors are not beings that are above the general community. They represent the general level of the whole of the community. If you look at your community and the people in it and you regard yourself as slightly superior to them, they you will find a resentment that will develop from Councillors as well.

There is another problem that I would call the 'antiseptic approach', the antiseptic buildings that sometimes exist as libraries are a very bad thing. When I say the antiseptic approach I mean the rather superior sort of air that often exists. You don't very often see it in well trained people but you do see it in some of the casual people and you do see the position that I think was raised by a lady this morning, when she said that some child said to her "I like talking to you because you're not clever like the rest' and I think that this applies as much to the adult community as the junior. We all know just how difficult it is if you have to see someone who appears to be slightly superior to you - you don't tend to go back. I express my apologies to our host here - but I don't like this particular library (in Albury) and its immediate environs. I think that the idea of the Town Hall you have here at the end of the small version of the Versailles gardens with little seats scattered about would tend to inhibit people from coming, for by the time they walk down here they are half overwhelmed. This position of having people walk down a long garden path and then tucking the library into the little corner is a very bad thing from the point of community involvement. These councils thinking in terms of libraries should realise that the libraries should be performing an organic and viable function in the community and buildings ought to be sighted where people will almost fall into them; where they will tend to feel that this is something that they can really belong to. I don't think you can take people out of a home where things are not terribly antiseptic and put them into something where they feel uncomfortable. It's got to be made as comfortable as possible and as near to the general norm as exists in the community. Modern architecture doesn't tend to do this but it can probably be done by people who are working within the library and feeling that they belong to the community. One of the problems we have occasionally at Clayton is that the doors to the Auditorium get locked by the cleaner and other Council staff whereas I think that it is a very good thing if they are not. They should be left open so that people can wander in and look at the theatre and the paintings hanging there and feel that this is something that they belong to and which belongs to them. With reference to the view presented on teenage involvement, I don't think Council's organise to get at the level of the junior or the teenage groups other than by the provision of sporting facilities. We did have a rock and roll dance near by but that has had to close because control was impossible, not so much because of local people but in a mobile society the trouble makers come from miles away. It is one of our fears that if we start doing

things too well it is going to be terribly difficult to maintain standards and I disagree with the slighting reference to Youth Clubs yesterday. I can't see any alternative to organised groups and I don't quite know how you can get to the youth otherwise.

In Oakleigh we have also the appointment of a welfare officer. He is a trained man and it is part of his function to work with the libraries - to assist in a great deal of the youth activities and to tackle the problems of young people which, after all should be discussed with the social worker, he should be part of the whole community structure and this structure inevitably includes the library. Librarianship is not a multidiscipline; the librarian has a particular job and he must form this liaison with social workers and all other people committed to community service, including the town-planners.

The question of town planning is vital when you are looking at an urban community; it is not a question of a town planner producing a very pleasant drawing but rather an integration of all the social factors that are involved. That's the lesson that we have had in Oakleigh and Clayton, and I would suggest that if anyone wants to get a close look at it we'd be very happy indeed to show him and to lay the place open and to invite criticism which will perhaps tell us where we should be going from here. We are of course extending our scope - the swimming pools are being extended with the addition of squash courts and gymnasiums and we're tending to develop them into health and sports centres. We have the suggestion of a third library, by the way, in North Clayton as the Princes Highway tends to cut the community in half and people, especially children don't cross a highway unneccessarily.

In Oakleigh we hope to develop around the library a civic centre with an auditorium, a gymnasium and squash courts, all located within the main trading community. But it is essential that the library be in this centre and be a living, vital aspect of a community at work. The community with this nucleus will develop an identity and the operation of libraries is the key to this development.

APPENDIX

CLAYTON ARTS COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME The name of the organisation shall be 'Clayton Arts Council' hereinafter called the Council.

2. OBJECTS The objects of the Council shall be to promote and foster an appreciation of cultural and educational activities in the City of Oakleigh:-

   (a) To promote and foster the development of the visual and performing arts, crafts and other cultural activities in the City.

   (b) To foster such performances, exhibitions, concerts, Art festivals and other such activities of a cultural nature as the Committee of the Council may from time to time determine.

   (c) To assist organisations financially, when possible, in respect of expenses incurred in the presentation of such events as set out in Clause 2 (b).

   (d) To assist in the establishment and conduct of Training Schools or Academies for the purpose of training persons in the various branches of the arts and crafts.

   (e) To provide a means of co-operation amongst organisations and persons interested in the arts and crafts.

   (f) To serve as a means of communication and co-ordination between the various organisations interested in the arts and crafts and the Council of the City of Oakleigh.

   (g) To encourage and assist in the integration of the Monash University and the local industrial undertakings in the cultural life of the community.

   (h) To bring to the community an awareness of industrial design and the applied sciences.

   (i) To encourage and sponsor in the youth of the community an appreciation of and an involvement in the visual and performing arts.

   (j) To serve as a medium for the fullest expression of the extension activities of the Library Services of the City of Oakleigh, particularly in the Clayton area.

   (k) To help raise funds to extend the cultural and educational facilities available within the Clayton area.

   (l) To encourage discussion groups on all topics including political, social and religious questions.

   (m) To assist in the promotion of historical research and to help in the collection of documents relating to the early history of the Clayton district.

   (n) To do all such additional things as may be considered by the Committee as necessary or desirable to give effect to the objects set out above.

3. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Membership of the organisation shall be open to all individuals who accept the objects of the Council and who pay such membership fees as may be prescribed from time to time.

(b) Membership shall be open to industrial corporate bodies interested in the objects of the Council and who pay such membership fees as may be prescribed from time to time.

(c) Membership shall be open to approved affiliated organisations and who pay such membership fees as may be prescribed from time to time. Organisations which support the objects of the Council may apply for affiliation in writing to the Honorary Secretary 30 days before the Annual General Meeting. A schedule of approved affiliated organisations shall be maintained and revised at each Annual General Meeting and shall be subject to the Recommendations of the Committee.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing the Council may appoint Patrons and Honorary and Life Members at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

(e) Members shall be entitled to such priveleges and concessions as may be determined by the Committee from time to time.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) The Annual Subscriptions shall be as set out hereunder or such amounts as the Committee may determine from year to year:-

Individual Members	$1.00
Junior members under 18 years and Full time students	20
Corporate membership	$10.00
Affiliated membership	$5.00

5. MANAGEMENT

(a) The business of the Council shall be managed by a Committee which shall consist of:-

(i) President
(ii) Immediate Past President (if any)
(iii) Two Vice-Presidents
(iv) Honorary Secretary
(v) Honorary Treasurer
(vi) Seven additional members
(vii) City Librarian and the Librarian of Clayton Library
(viii) A Nominee of the Council of the City of Oakleigh
(ix) Two nominees of each affiliated organisation
(x) A nominee of the local industrial concerns holding corporate membership
(xi) A nominee of local commerce
(xii) A nominee of the Monash University

(b) Twelve members of the Committee shall be elected at the Inaugural Meeting of the Council, by ballot.

(c) All members of the Committee other than the nominee of Monash University, the City Librarian and the Librarian of the Clayton Library shall be ratepayers, or residents, of the City of Oakleigh.

(d) Elected members of the Committee shall hold office for two years. Half of that number shall be elected each Annual General Meeting. At the first Annual General Meeting the Committee shall decide by ballot which elected members shall vacate their positions.

(e) The Committee shall appoint a President, two Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer from the elected members.

(f) Nominations for elective members of the Committee must reach the Honorary Secretary seven days before the Annual General Meeting. In the event of nominations not being received for all positions the vacancies may be filled at the Annual General Meeting then being held. Nominations shall be in writing, signed by the Candidate and his proposer and seconder, together with their addresses. Retiring members shall be eligible to re-election.

(g) Any vacancy of the Committee may be filled by the Committee.

(h) A Committee Member absent from four consecutive meetings without leave from the Committee, shall forfeit his office. Acceptance of an apology shall be deemed grant of leave of absence.

(i) The Committee shall meet not less than once every three months, and shall keep minutes of its proceedings.

(j) The Executive Officers, the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall jointly in the absence of any express direction to the contrary from any Committee meeting have power to do all things and take such action as they may deem necessary or advisable for the purpose of carrying out the objects and decisions of the Council between meetings. All such action taken shall be reported at the subsequent Committee meeting.

(k) The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees to assist in the work of the Council. Any Sub-Committee shall be under the direction of a Vice-President or such member appointed by the Committee. All Sub-Committees shall be responsible to the Committee for the conduct of their affairs. Such Sub-Committees may include members of the Council who are not members of the Committee.

(l) The Committee may co-opt additional members for special purposes.

(m) The President and Honorary Secretary shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(a) The Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held at intervals of not more than thirteen months at such time and place as is determined by the Committee provided 30 days notice is given to all financial members.

(b) At each Annual General Meeting the President shall present a report on activities undertaken during the year, and the Honorary Treasurer shall present a duly audited financial statement.

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Committee shall have power to call Sepcial General Meetings and the Honorary Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting upon receiving a

written requisition signed by not less than twenty per cent of the members eligible to vote and setting out the business to be submitted to the Special Meeting.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) Notices Notices of all General Meetings, stating the purpose for which the meeting is called and the time and place of such meeting, shall be given to all members of the Council at least fourteen days prior to such meeting. The posting of a notice to the last known address of a member shall be sufficient notice of such meeting.

(b) Voting Each member whether an individual or an organisation shall be entitled to one vote only provided he is financial at the time of the meeting. All questions shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a ballot be requested by at least one-third of the members present at the meeting. The Chairman shall have a deliberative vote and no casting vote.

(c) Nominees The Honorary Secretary must be informed in writing of all nominees for voting purposes. Such nominees, other than the nominee of Monash University, must be ratepayers or resident in the City of Oakleigh.

(d) Minutes Minutes shall be kept of all General Meetings and a copy of same forwarded to the City of Oakleigh.

9. QUORUMS

(a) Annual General Meetings & Special General Meetings shall be twenty members or one-sixth of the financial membership whichever is the smaller.

(b) Committee Meetings shall be a majority of its members.

If a Quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the advertised starting time of the meeting, the meeting shall lapse.

10. FINANCE

(a) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep true accounts of all moneys received and expended and of the property, credits and liabilities of the Council. All payments shall be authorised by the Committee.

(b) All moneys received shall be paid into the Council's bank account to be opened in the name of the 'Clayton Arts Council'. All cheques drawn on this account shall be signed by any two of the following:-
The President, the Honorary Secretary or the Honorary Treasurer.

(c) Accounts shall be made up to the end of the financial year which shall end on March 31, each year.

(d) Accounts shall be audited by an Auditor appointed by the Committee.

11. PROPERTY & FUNDS

(a) The property of the Council, other than cash which shall be under the control of the Committee shall be vested in three trustees, who shall be appointed by resolution of the Committee, to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution.

(b) The appointment of any trustee of the Council and of any direction to the trustee shall be communicated to him or them in writing by the Honorary Secretary of the Council.

(c) The trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a resolution of the Committee who may, for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of them present and voting at any meeting, remove any trustee or trustees from office.

(d) The provisions of the Trustee Act 1958 (Victoria) shall apply to every such appointment.

(e) The Committee of the Council shall not have implied authority, either collectively or otherwise, to pledge the credit of members of the Council for debts incurred, whether for work done on behalf of the Council or for any other purpose by any person whatsoever and no member shall be liable for any debt incurred on behalf of the Council unless such member has expressly authorised such debt to be incurred.

(f) The income and property of the Council whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council as set out in Clause 2 hereof, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to members of the Council. Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officers or servants of the Council or to any member of the Council in return for any services actually rendered to the Council, nor for goods supplied in the usual way of business, nor prevent the payment of reasonable and proper rent for premises let by any member to the Council. Provided that no member of the Committee or Governing Body of the Council shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Council, or any office of the Council paid by fees, and that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be paid or given by the Council to any members of such Committee or Governing Body except repayment of out of pocket expenses and interest and rent (if any) as aforesaid.

12. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A member may resign his membership by sending written notice to the Honorary Secretary, provided his subscription for the current year be paid. No member retiring from the Council or ceasing to be a member from any cause shall be entitled to, or have any claim on any portion whatever of the property of the Council.

13. DISSOLUTION

1. The Council shall be dissolved if -

   (a) A resolution to this effect is carried by a General Meeting, 14 day's notice of the proposed resolution having been given.

   (b) Financial membership drops to 10 or less members.

2. If upon dissolution, or winding up, of the Council there remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatever, the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst members of the Council, but shall be given or transferred to some institution or institutions determined by the members of the Council at or before the time of dissolution.

14. PETITIONS

The President shall, within 14 days of the receipt of written requisitions to that effect from 10 members, call a General Meeting to be held within 30 days of such receipt. The President shall, within 7 days of the receipt of written requisitions to that effect from 3 Committee members, call a Committee meeting to be held within 15 days of such receipt. If the President has not within the stipulated time called a duly-requisitioned meeting, the requisitionists may themselves call it. The petition and the notice of meeting shall set out the business it is desired to transact.

15. COPIES OF CONSTITUTION

The Honorary Secretary shall supply a copy of the Constitution to each financial member.

16. INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION

(a) In the event of any doubt or difficulty arising as to the meaning of this Constitution the Chairman of the meeting of either General, Committee or Sub-Committee shall have the power to pronounce a decision upon it, which decision shall be final and binding on its members for that particular meeting.

(b) Such doubt or difficulty must be determined at the next Committee meeting and the notice of that meeting shall set out the clause or clauses in dispute. This Committee meeting, if properly constituted, shall have power to pronounce a decision upon it, which decision shall be final and binding on its members.

17. ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION

This constitution may not be altered except by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose by the Committee, or on the requisition of members. In all such cases fourteen days notice of motion stating the proposed amendment shall be given to members.